

Dear Father

Letters From The Civil War
Written by
William Milton and
Thomas Washington Nash
Of Company E, 7th Regiment
Georgia Volunteers

And other letters

Compiled by
Dolfe VanAlyne

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DEAR FATHER

When this project began, I had no idea where it would lead. The old Civil War letters given to family members by our father, Tandy P. Brown were my primary interest. Nancy Treadway started the project by collecting them from family members and, with the help of Pat White, transcribing the writing. Then she let me read them because I wanted to know if the men who wrote the letters had fought on any of the battlefields Bob and I visited while we were stationed in Washington, D. C. Reading those letters soon gave me a mental picture of actual people, fighting a very real war and the historical significance in their content made them all the more interesting.

Bob and I began a journey which has taken us through many battlefields, archives, historical societies, museums, phone calls and books. We've met curators who fueled our excitement by sending us books and adding information to what we had already collected. Authors of the many books used in the research bring a human side to our relatives by giving us details about life during the Civil War and the emotions of a growing, changing nation. We've become acquainted with distant relatives searching for their roots and now we know more about relatives who lived so long ago.

Dedication

To Nancy

Who collected the Letters and shared their contents.

Special Thanks

To Bob

Who took me on the many journeys looking into the past. Visiting Archives, Battlefields and Cemeteries. What a treasure he is and I love him very much.

To Susan

She read the manuscript and made the many corrections. Where would we be without a great English Teacher to keep us on track.

To Frank

For reading the manuscript and keeping me historically correct.

To Jan

For helping me with the translations of the letters.

To my children and grandchildren

For reading my work and encouraging me all the way.

**To all of my brothers and sisters
for your words of encouragement and praise**

Contents

Introduction	7
The Beginning	9
The First Battle of Manassas	15
1861 - Fall and Winter	29
Early 1862	39
The College Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia	43
Milton's Death	49
Washington Continues in the War	57
Small Pox	61
Early 1863	63
The Start of the Gettysburg Campaign	69
Beyond Gettysburg	71
Letters by Frances and Robert	79
Tandy William Brown	85
Tennessee	85
Rock Island Prison	95

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

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DEAR FATHER

Introduction

A long time ago in the United States a great war was waged between the North and South, brother against brother, fathers against sons and friends and comrades against each other. Generals from both the North and the South were West Point Cadets and classmates. It was difficult for them to be at war with each other. Biographies tell of the anguish suffered by these men and their heartbreak regarding the mission. Many names were given to this conflict: The War of Aggression, The War of Secession, The War between the North and the South, The Civil War and others. More books have been written about this five year period in our history than any other time in the short life of the United States. These letters are a part of our family, these people were our great-great uncles and aunts, great-great grandparents and others who were part of their lives.

Most of the letters in this book were written by our great-great uncles William Milton and Thomas Washington Nash to their father Robert B. Nash. Also included are some letters exchanged by Robert and his wife Frances, and various others written to Robert. All were written during the Civil War from May 1861 to October 1864. Milton and Washington joined Company E, 7th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers, also referred to in the letters as the Gwinnette County Boys or the Yellow River Boys. In the various histories of the unit they are also referred to as the DeKalb County Volunteers. Milton was 32 years of age when he went to war, Thomas was 26 and the written word makes it very obvious which one had more education.

Robert B. Nash, our great-great grandfather joined the Georgia Volunteers late in the war, probably the Georgia 10th or 36th Regiment. He was married to Frances Osborn and there are letters exchanged between them. While they did not speak of any conflicts or battles, the letters are interesting because they give information about life in Georgia during the war. Frances was not the mother of Robert's first three children; Lucinda, William Milton and Thomas Washington. They were from his marriage to Nancy and she must have passed away sometime between 1850 and 1860. There is another child mentioned, a female named Elizabeth. She was born after the 1860 census when Frances was listed as Robert's wife, so it is an assumption that she was their child and may have died before the 1870 census. She is mentioned in the letters as they ask that their respects be given to "Fanny, and sisters Lucinda (Sindy) and Elizabeth (Betsy)." The brothers expressed a great deal of love and respect for their father in their writing, the capital "Y" on the word "you" implies reverence or perhaps the writing style of this period. They also have a great deal of respect for Frances or Fanny as they refer to her, even though she was not their mother and approximately the same age as Milton.

Milton would have made a good Sergeant; his concern was always for the other men in the 7th Regiment. He never complained, while his brother Washington did often. Of course, Washington fought in the war for a longer time than Milton, which may account for his despair. Washington did us a great favor by keeping track of dates and places, making it possible to track his journeys in relation to the battles and events as written in the history books.

Most of the Georgia 7th Regiment fought in the Battle of Bull Run or First Manassas, the first major battle of the war. Milton and Washington fought and were wounded there. After Manassas, they were sent to Centerville where the Georgia Volunteers went into their winter quarters. In early March of 1862, Washington became ill and was sent to the College Hospital at Lynchburg, Virginia. Milton went on to fight in the Peninsula Campaign and during The Seven Days Battle he received his mortal wounds.

Washington remained in the hospital at Lynchburg, Virginia until early September of 1862 when he returned to his unit. Washington then wrote of his journey to Maryland and the fights along the way. Later, he wrote about the campaigns in Virginia after which he was sent to the Western front where he fought at; Chickamauga, the Chattanooga Siege, and the Knoxville Siege. He was captured by the Federal Forces on January 5, 1864 at Lawrence's Mill, Tennessee and taken to the Rock Island Illinois Prison where he remained until May 25, 1865.

Robert Nash's oldest child, Lucinda, married our great grandfather, Tandy William Brown. Tandy joined Company C, 10th Cavalry, Georgia Volunteers some time in 1863. Tandy and Lucinda had five children, one of whom was George Moulcom Brown, our grandfather. George Moulcom married Anna Walker Brooks. Our father, Tandy Parks Brown, was the second of George and Anna's seven children and was named for his two grandfathers, Tandy William Brown and Abram Parks Brooks.

There are two letters from our great-grandfather, Tandy William Brown. In the first letter he wrote to Governor Joseph Brown (no relation) stating that he had been commissioned a Captain in the 544th District of the Georgia Militia and in the second letter, he refers to the taking of beans to Bragg's Army. There are no references to battles.

I will preface each letter with background information, hopefully making them easier to understand. Thanks to Nancy, I had access to copies of many of the original letters, and I will include photocopies of as many as can be legibly reproduced. Some of the letters are of poor quality and not good enough to photocopy, those letters are not included. Researching all the battles and surrounding circumstances has been lots of fun, and my information is as accurate as possible. Because some archaic usages of the English language creeps into the letters, I have included a glossary at the back of the book with terms not used today.

Chapter One

The Beginning

The Civil war began many years before the first shot was ever fired on Fort Sumter. Even as the Continental Congress drafted the Declaration of Independence, the North and South were at odds. Slavery was an issue for Thomas Jefferson as he wrote the draft of the Declaration, and he included a section which would abolish it. The South, led by South Carolina, insisted that this section be eliminated, and threatened to cast “nay” votes, thereby blocking the unanimous vote needed by all thirteen colonies before the fight for independence could begin. Sadly, Jefferson complied, the sentence was deleted and the rest is history.

Even through the years that followed the Revolutionary War, there were fights on the floor of Congress, fisticuffs and a couple of duels, but mostly verbal fights between the North and the South. The Senator from Texas, Louis T. Wigfall was such a radical that he was called a “Fire eater” and Congressman Preston Brooks of South Carolina thought nothing of caning any other Congressman that disagreed with him. These men and others like them were set in their beliefs, compromise could not be reached. There wasn’t any true bonding, the nation was never “United” as the name indicated.

When the South seceded, they felt Britain could be counted on to help. The South had cotton, a major product exported to Britain, and they were sure Britain’s need for cotton for their textile mills would keep them on the side of the South. As it turned out there was a glut in the cotton market, Britain didn’t need it, refused to help the South, and except for running a few blockades, didn’t get involved with either side until much later.

The South started to pull away from the union in late December of 1860. South Carolina was first, followed by Mississippi, Florida and Alabama. Georgia went out eight days later, with Louisiana and Texas poised to be next. Jefferson Davis resigned from the United States Senate, a convention was called in Montgomery, Alabama to form the Confederacy, and Jefferson Davis was elected its President. Lincoln had been elected President of the United States in 1860, was inaugurated in March of 1861, and almost immediately began putting pressure on the South. The South responded by firing on Fort Sumter, and the war began.

Friday, April 12, 1861 at 4:20 a.m., the firing on Fort Sumpter began and lasted into Saturday. While no casualties occurred because of the bombing on Fort Sumter, there were seven casualties during the surrender. The 51 gun salute for the Federal Flag as it was retired from Fort Sumter caused 6 casualties when an ember fell into some powder and it exploded. Five men were injured and one, Private Daniel Hough was killed. Private Hough was the first fatality in the Civil War. Another casualty was Roger Pryor who went with General Beauregard to draft the terms of surrender. The men met at an unused hospital. Pryor was thirsty and wanted a drink. He poured himself one from a bottle on the table, then, much to his dismay, discovered that it was “Iodine of Potassium.” He became very ill, but his life was saved by a Federal surgeon who took him outside and pumped his stomach.

Shortly after Sumter, the Nash brothers entered into the Civil war. They joined at the same time, wrote their letters together and traveled together. The enlistment record of William Milton Nash, who called himself Milton and signed his letters W. M. Nash, states that he enlisted on May 31st, 1861, was 32 years of age, had blue eyes, brown hair, a fair complexion and was 6' tall. At this point, I do not have an enlistment record for Thomas W. Nash, who called himself Wash and signed his letters Thomas W. Nash. He does however tell us in a letter dated December 7th, 1861 that he was in "*Verginnia*" and "*wais one hundred and ninety seven lbs,*" so he was not a small man.

This first letter is from the Army telling Milton he could possibly get a commission if he recruited 100 men. There were a lot of men who joined when Milton and Washington did, and not knowing how many there were, I can't assume anything. Even if he did get 100 men, he still joined as a Private.

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA
—Constitutional Office
Augusta, April 16, 1861

Mr. Wm. M. Nash

Dear Sir,

Your welcome favor after some delay has reached me, and I am rejoiced greatly at your success. I can not get funds untill Col Chastain gets back but will send what you want when he does. I would rejoice if you could get up a company of one hundred men, but would prefer that you would not bring them to Augusta untill you hear from me. If you get a hundred I will do my best to get you a lieutenants commission. I will be responsible for all necessary contracts which you may make.

I would like to have you send me an estimate of what money you want.

Your's fraternally

Henry Cleveland
1st Lt. 2d. Regt. GA

The second letter dated June 5, 1861 is self explanatory. This is probably the first written from their duty station after their enlistment. They were sent by rail to Richmond, approximately 550 miles from Atlanta, all along the way well wishers greeted them with cheers and smiles. Their arrival in Richmond is a happy one, they are anticipating the first battle and the enemy, about which they say: "*we will no doubt give them a warming soon.*" Actually, they don't know when they will move or what their next destination is, the letter is written to let their father know they arrived safe and sound. The second day, a post script is added stating they will need some clothing because it is cold there. Virginia is not as warm as Georgia in June.

They are fortunate they joined when they did. There were plenty of tents and food for the soldiers. The men joining in August and September, found shortages of everything and had to make do with what they could buy or steal. The South was not prepared to take care of so many troops.

Richmond Va, June 5, 1861

Dear Father

We have just now reached this place safe and Soun and only regreting that had we only got here in the day time so that we would have had the pleasure of writing You the full news of the day, but as it is late at night we will only have chance to give You the particulars of the present. We are now in Richmond and perhaps will leave here tomorrow. There has been a small skirmish between our people and the Northan rascals, only one of our men lost, while many of the other side were kild and wounded. We will have fighting to do soon. Tell our Gwinnett friends that we hope they will get ready and be with us soon. Six hundred of our ridgment reach this place today. We were saluted by everybody as we passed by. We received kind attention by ladies and gentlemen at ever point we stoped at.

My time is limited & will have to close.

Our best respects & well wishes to all our friends. Let them know that we will have fighting to do and that soon.

Wm. M. & T. W. Nash

P.S. I have time to write a few lines more this morning. We may leave here tomorrow, or it may be two weeks yet. If you wish to write to Washington & I, or to either of us Just direct Your letter to T. W. or Wm. M. Nash To the Care of Capt J. W. Fowler

Col. Gartrell's Reg.

Richmond, Va

If you will only back them as above directed, they will reach us, even if we leave this point."

We are now in three miles of the enemy and will no doubt give them a warming soon. It is cold weather here & Washington and I would like to have some more cloaths. Washington wants You to make him a pair of pants. Send both of my cloath coats & two pair of pants two vests and two shirts. Put them in care of the Express and they will come without cost. Be sure You have them to Wm. M. Nash in or to the care of Capt. J. W. Fowler. Col. Gartrells seventh Reg.

Yours in hast

Wm. M. Nash

(On the back of the letter is this list from T. W. Nash)

"1 over coat, 1 Dress coat, 2 par pants, 2 par drawers, 3 par Chirts, 1 Blanket, 1 Boots, 2 par socks, 1 hat T. W. Nash to R. B. Nash"

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA,

Constitutional Office.

Augusta, April 16th 1861

Mr Wm M. Wash.

Dear Sir,

Your welcome favor after some delay has reached me, and I am rejoiced greatly at your success. I can not get funds until Col Chestnut gets back but will send what you want when he does. I would rejoice if you could get up a company of one hundred men, but would prefer that you would not bring them to Augusta until you hear from me. If you get a hundred I will do my best to get you a Lieutenants Commission. I will be responsible for for all necessary contracts which you may make. I would like to have you send me an estimate of what money you want.

Yours fraternally

Henry Cleveland.

1st St. 2^d Regt.

Chapter Two

The First Battle of Manassas

From Richmond, the brothers were sent on to Harpers Ferry. Probably traveled by train, because at that time it was the most common and efficient mode of transportation. The Civil War was the first time trains were used during war time to move troops in large numbers and this is also the reason Manassas Junction was so important.

The Manassas Battlefield is located at Manassas Junction, Virginia. It is also known as the Battle of Bull Run. The North used towns to name battles and the South used creeks or landmarks. The beautiful area of grass and trees is well preserved. The buildings are still marked with the holes made by the cannon fire and in some places even a cannon ball is left in the wall. A large, imposing statue of "Stonewall" Jackson stands in the middle of the battlefield. It is said he urged his army on by standing like a stonewall in front of the troops. The battlefield is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Not long ago, The Disney Corporation wanted to build a theme park next to the battlefield, which created a furor by local residents and people from all over the country. Disney soon scrapped those plans.

Lincoln wanted the war over as fast as possible and he knew the North would have to gain the advantage by capturing the railroad at Manassas Junction. Strategically, Manassas Junction was extremely important to both the North and the South. The Junction was a major Railroad Crossroads which served the North-South route as well as the East-West route with quick access to Washington, D. C. or Richmond, Virginia. Lincoln was pushing General McDowell to attack and as a result, McDowell began his campaign to capture Manassas Junction. The Union Troops were untrained and undisciplined and instead of marching straight to Manassas, they stopped along the way to pick berries and shed their heavy packs. Consequently, the South had extra time to prepare. The Confederate General, Beauregard learned of their intentions through a Confederate Agent, a Mrs. Rose Greenhow. He quickly positioned his 30,000 untried troops north of the junction and on a warm Sunday, July 21, 1861, the Federal Troops assaulted in force and tried to overwhelm the Confederate Flank. They were initially successful when the South crumbled on the left and went back to the crest of the hill and the Henry House. This is when General Jackson stood like a "Stonewall." General Bartow and his fresh troops (the Georgia 7th and 8th Regiments) had arrived from the Shanandoah Valley early in the morning. They ran across the field screaming their famous "Rebel Yell" and drove back the Union Army.

If war is ever humorous, there is a humorous element to the battle of Manassas. The Congressional Delegations and their families decided to go to Manassas and watch their troops polish off those "Secessionists." They brought their lunches, spread their table cloths on the ground and expected to enjoy the day. When the tide of battle turned and the South began to win, they tried to escape. The roads became clogged with wagons and retreating troops. It must have been much like today's rush hour traffic in Washington, D. C. Many were captured, and after serious negotiations, the women, children and congressmen were released. At this point, the South wasn't interested in holding prisoners.

The Federal losses were 2708 and the South, 1982. While the South won the first victory, they were not pleased about the day, they were overwhelmed by the feelings they had from their encounter with the Yankees. This was their first taste of battle and in fact, there had not been any war during their lifetime to prepare them for those events.

The battle took place on Sunday, July 21, 1861. Our Nash brothers, Milton and Washington, and the 7th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers came into the battle on a forced march from Winchester, Virginia. Winchester is located about 30 miles West of Manassas Junction and about 10 miles South of Harper's Ferry.

They were foot soldiers and even though they rode trains whenever possible, this time they had to march to their destination. The weather in Virginia during July and August is usually hot and humid. The march was tiring and dusty.

We are fortunate to have the two letters with descriptions of the battle through the eyes of the soldier. Both were written by Milton with detailed and repetitive information. The following pages are copies of the letter written by Milton on August 4, 1861. Because of its historical value, I have copied the entire letter. The second letter with the same information is with the translations, but not a copy of the original.

It is difficult for them to know if their mail is getting through so basically Milton repeated his and Washington's part in the action for the family to read. He refers to "bums" which are the cannon shots and the "tattoo" being sounded. The tattoo is actually a call sounded before taps, a call to quarters. He is probably referring to a bugle call or drum roll sounded for them to fall in line for battle.

Both brothers were wounded in this fight. By August, Washington's wound was healed and Milton's was nearly healed. Milton said, "*it will be well in a month I think.*" The 7th Regiment reported 153 casualties at First Manassas.

In August, as in many of their other letters, the biggest concern is the need for clothing and the lack of mail from home. They do not intend to wear uniforms. They will act like soldiers but do not want to wear the uniform. They are asking for "janes" which I am sure are jeans, probably made from cotton denim. They anticipate another battle, however, at this point none is forthcoming.

Marysville, Nevada August 4th 1861
Dear Father,

We are now three miles East of the Junction and I suppose, soon be in our way to the City of Henderson ~~and the country east of it~~ ~~which is about twenty miles distance.~~

You no doubt have heard many different accounts of the late battle on Bull Run and the chances to one if any of them was correct. As the fight was general for ten miles at the same time you know it would be impossible for any one person to see all that was going on, and every man telling what he saw makes the variety of statements that you see in the news papers.

I was not acquainted with any of the Regs except the 7th or 8th. These Regs. land at the Junction on Saturday before the fight on Sunday and were very much fatigued by the forced march from Winchester. Our Reg. the 7th taken up quarters for the night at the Junction while the 8th Reg. moved some two miles further on. At or before 6 o'clock on Sunday morning we heard cannon firing off to our right. I went at first more for ~~information~~ ~~anything else~~ but shortly afterwards a dispatch was received, stating that the enemy was throwing bombs at our Hospital. There were several Regs. ordered out immediately ours among others and, as I suppose, thinking there would be hot work soon, they put our Reg. out at double

of shot and by the time we got to the battle, and we were
tired and mad enough to have fought - did Lincoln's whole
force of infantry. But instead of getting a chance at the
infantry we were marched right in front of the
enemy's battery where the bombs fell around us by hundreds.
The 8th Reg. was drawn up on our right. But neither the
~~7th nor the 8th were able to advance the line in case of the~~
march further forward so that we might be able to drive
the bombs under cover of a hill in front of the enemy's battery
but just as we got about half way down the hill and ~~near~~
a long skirt of woodland we were saluted by 10,000 U.S. regu-
lars. They fired a full volley right into our ranks and I
sure there was as many as a hundred bullets passed within five
feet of where I was standing. Some passed through my clothes
but none touched the hide. We were ordered to retreat immedi-
ately but we did it reluctantly, many of the boys returned their fire
on our retreat one man in our regiment was killed which was
about all the damage they did at that time. On our retreat
the 8th Reg. turned to the left down bull run, the 7th to right
and formed their line of battle near where we were first
halted in the morning. The enemy thinking to flank us right
and left divided their line also. ~~Though I have no idea that they~~
~~were aware of our division.~~ They were this day taken us
all in a pile together, but they soon found things quite different
from what they expected. The 8th fired on their left wing
and the 7th on their right. The 8th Reg. having very superior
round to fight on and superior numbers, even five to one to

contend with suffered extremely. The 7th Reg. was ~~very~~ fortunate. We had a splendid position, though we had the same number of the enemy to contend with that the 8th did. We had a good battery to back us and also one to face us. The battle was a hard one, both sides receiving reinforcements occasionally would make things that much warmer. ~~At three o'clock we were ordered to charge, but were not allowed to do so until the liberty~~ fray. About the second position with the bayonet scattered the Yankees in every direction. Our cavalry falling in on their broken ranks hived them down on our side. It seems as if the enemy were routed in every quarter at the same time.

After the enemy got out of sight of the infantry the weary soldiers cast their eye over the field, some probably just to see what had been done and for booty, others to see a brother or relative or a kind friend who had by chance or wounds been separated from them. I soon found that ~~some~~ of our company had been killed, but a good number had been wounded. There were many of our company cast on the field at all, our Capt. 2nd & 3rd Lieut. and several of the privates were sick and at Winchester. J. M. Nash, which I see stated in the papers as being wounded was sick and at Winchester, so was James Kimball, and others who cannot be sick when ever they want to. ~~We do not know the names of all who were wounded, but~~ I suppose they are all doing very well except James Richardson Washington's wound is ~~most~~ most well and mine is doing finely, it will be well in a ~~week~~ month I think. I am staying in Camp with my company, they are very kind to me and

will do anything for one they can. I can get a permit to go
to a private house but I prefer staying with my company

Our Gwinnett recruits have arrived safe and sound
and are all in good health now except one or two who
are dissatisfied.

Washington & I have not received our clothing yet
~~I have the receipts please make it out if~~
~~and let them know that we want them and if they are~~
lost let them pay damage to their value.

Tell Nancy, Lucinda & Betty that winter time will
soon be here and Washington & I would prize a jinos
suit of cloths very much. Snow falls here thick
and the snow turns to solid ice.

If I knew ~~exactly~~ just what special news you would
like to hear I would write it with pleasure, that is I mean
particular news.

Beauregard says that we taken more arms, ammunition
provision, horses, waggons & other valuable property than
we began the war with.

The enemies loss in killed, wounded and
taken prisoner is supposed to be between 20,000 and
30,000. Our is estimated at 15,000 but we know it will
~~take 3000 to cover our loss in killed and wounded.~~

Washington & I would be extremely happy to see all of
our country & friends. Therefore we send our best respects
to all of them & hope they will let us hear from them when convenient.

We remain as ever
Your obedient sons

W. M. W. T. Wash

Manassas Junction August 4th 1861

Dear Father,

We are now three miles East of the Junction and will I suppose, soon be on our way to the city of Washington. This country is covered with troops from the Junction to Alexandria which is about twenty miles distance.

You no doubt have heard many differant accounts of the late battle on bull's run and two chances to one if any of them was correct. As the fight was general for ten miles at the same time You know it would be impossible for any one person to see all that was going on, and every man telling what he saw makes the variety of statements that You see in the newspapers.

I was not acquainted with any of the Regs. Except the 7th & 8th. These Regs. Land at the Junction on Sadurday before the fight on Sunday and were very much fatiqued by the forced march from Winchester. Our Reg. 'the 7th' taken up quarters for the night at the Junction while the 8th Reg. moved some two miles further on. At or before 6 oclock on Sunday morning we heard cannons firing off to our right which seemed at first more for fun than anything else, but shortly afterwards a dispatch was received, stating that the enemy was throwing bums at our Hospital. There were several Regs. ordered out immediately, our among others and, as I suppose, thinking there would be hot work soon, they put our Reg. out at doble quick and by the time we got to the battle field we were tired and mad enough to have fought old Lincoln's whole forces of infantry, but instead of geting a chance at the infantry we were marched right in front of the enemies' battery where the bums fell around us by hundreds. The 8th Reg. Was drawed up on our right, but neither the 7th nor 8th being able to return the fire we were ordered to march further forward so that we might be able to shun the bums under cover of a hill in front of the enemies' battery, but just as we got about half way down the hill and near a long skirt of woodland we were saluted by 10,000 U S regulars. They fired a full volley right into our ranks and I sure there was as many as a hundred bullets passed within five feet of where I was standing. Some passed through my cloaths but non tuched the hide. We were ordred to retreat immediately but we did it reluctantly, many of the boys returned the fire on our retreat one man in our regiment was killed which was about al the damage they did at that time. On our retreat the 8th Reg. turned to the left down bull run, the 7th to right and formed their line of battle near

where we were first halted in the morning. The enemy thinking to flank us right and left divided their line also. Though I have no idea that they were aware of our division. They were thinking of taking us all in a pile together, but they soon found things quite different from what they expected. The 8th fired on their left wing and the 7th on their right. The 8th Reg. having very unfair ground to fight on and Superior numbers, even five to one, to contend with suffered extremely. The 7th Reg. Was more fortunate - We had a splendid position, though we had the same numbers of the enemy to contend with that the 8th did. We had a good battery to back us and also one to face us. The battle was a hard one, both sides receiving reinforcements occasionally would make things that much warmer. At three o'clock we were ordered to charge bayonets which put a stop to the bloody fray. About the second punch with the bayonet scattered the Yankees in every direction. Our cavalry falling in on their broken ranks hewed them down on every side. It seems as if the enemy were routed in every quarter at the same time.

After the enemy got out of sight of the infantry the weary soldiers cast their eye over the field, some probably just to see what had been done and for booty, others to see a brother a relative or a kind friend who had by chance or wounds been separated from them. I soon found that none of our company had been killed, but a good number had been wounded. There were many of our company not on the field at all, our Capt. 2nd & 3rd Lieut. and several of the privates were sick and at Winchester. F.M. Nash which I see stated in the papers as being wounded was sick and at Winchester, so was James Kimbrel, and others who can get sick when ever they want to. I do not know the names of all our wounded, but I suppose they are all doing very well except James Richardson. Washington's wound is most- most- well and mine is doing finely, it will be well in a month I think. I am staying in camp with my company. They are very kind to me and will do anything for me they can. I can get a permit to go to a private house but I prefer staying with my company.

Our Gwinnett recruits have arrived safe and sound and are all in good health now except one or two who are dissatisfied.

Washington & I have not received our clothing yet. You have the receipt, please wake the agents up and let them know that we want them and if they are lost let them pay damage to their value.

Tell Fany, Lucinda & Betsy that Winter time will soon be here and Washington & I would prize a janes suit of cloaths very much. Snows fall here knee deep and the rivers turn to solid ice.

If I knew now just what special news You would like to hear I would write it with pleasure, that is I mean particular news.

Beauregard says that we taken more arms, ammuniton, provision, horses, waggons & other valuable property than we begain the war with.

The enemies' loss in killed, wounded and taken prisoners is supposed to be between 20,000 and 30,000. Ours is estimated at 1,500, but I know it will take 3,000 to cover our loss in kild and wounded.

Washington & I would be extremily happy to see all of our connection & friends. Therefore we send our best respects to all of them & hope they will let us hear from them when convenient.

We remain as ever

Your obedient Sons

W. M. & T. W. Nash

Manassas Junction August 28th 1861

Dear Father,

As Washington & I have nothing to do today, have concluded to give You as near as possible the details of the battle on Bull Run. The condition of affairs here now, & the prospect of another battle soon. As You have heard of the battle so often, have seen so many different statements concerning it & have formed some different opinions about it, that we do not expect for an instant, to monopolize, or even to change any idea that You may have drawn hereto for respecting of it. We will however give You an account of the great battle according to experience, and in as few words as possible.

On Thursday morning before the battle on Sunday, we were ordered to strike our tents and prepair to march, which was immediately excuted. At to oclock, all of Johnsons forces except three or four Regments, were on a quick, and sometimes a double quick tramp for Manassas. Early Friday morning after having performed a march of thirty miles under the most fatiguing circumstances, we arrived at a depot on the junction & Strawsburg Rail-Road. Our march was through and over a very thinly settled section of country, where there was neither food to satisfy the appetite or water to quench to thirst of the hungry and thirsty soldiers. Marching through a fog of dust for fifteen hours, ascending & decending the Blue Ridge and avoiding the Shenandoah river which is two hundred yards wide, was anything but pleasant to me. We remained at the Depot untill Saturday morning in consequence of not having Engineers, 'as several of them had deserted,' to steer the engine. We landed at the Junction near 12 oclock A.M. and after prepairing and eating a snack we were marched to a piece of woodland near by, where we rested finely till the following morning, which was Sunday, the day long to be remembered by many. Early Sunday morning we heard a cannonading off to our right which appeared to be some five or six miles distant from us. A few minutes afterward a dispatch was received stating that the enemy was firing at a hospital blonging to Gen. Beauregard's forces.

The tattoo was sounded, and every man fell into line promptly, except some few who concluded that they were sick and what fools they would be if they did not stay at the camp, but the order to march was given, and those who were ready and willing to go, put the order into execution. After going in a hurry for five miles we were halted & commanded to load which we did

with perfect coolness. I do not believe that there was a man in our company or but very few in the whole Reg. but what loaded their guns with as much composure as if they had been going to shoot at a squirrel. As soon as our guns were loaded we were ordered to double quick left oblique, in the direction of where we heard a tremendous firing of muskets. After having gone near a mile we overtook Col. Bartow, who had halted the 8th Reg. And was I suppose waiting for the 7th to come up as we all continued the march for near a mile further, where we was saluted by a round of bums from the enemies cannon. Here we, the 7th Reg were halted again, while the 8th Reg. filed directly to our right, which left us on the extrem left of our forces to contend with the extrem right of the enemies'. As soon as our line of battle was formed we were ordered to lie down, so that the bums from the enemies' battery would pass over, instead of through us. But they was to wise to be fooled in any such way. They lowered their canons and piled their bums into our ranks by hundreds, though fortunately for us they did not do much damage. We were marched from here near a half mile obliquely to the right with the intention as I supposed of gaining the foot of a hill in front of the enemies' battery so that we would be out of danger of their bums. But here we were disappointed again, near the foot of the hill was a long skirt of woods which was crowded to excess with Yankees who fired a full voly into our ranks almost before we were aware of their position. A retreat was immediately ordered which threw us back near the 8th Reg. Here the 7th and 8th formed a line together, which should by all means been maintained. But Bartow not liking the position manouvered the 8th Reg to the right & the 7th to the left which threw us on the ground that we first occupied in the morning. By this time, the enemy has crossed the creek with their battery and also two Regiments of infantry. The fight now became general. We had a good position, so had our battery, and every round showed the Yankees that they would have more to do than to brag. It was not our intention in the outset to charge their battery, but when their lines got in such a state of confusion, the opportunity was too favorable to be lost, and when the order to charge bayonet was given, the Yankees showed us that they were much faster on the heel than we might imagine. This was between four and five oclock P.M. There the fight Sceaused with us. We have now told You the principle part of what we saw of the battle, but as it was general, for eight miles down Bull Run You have not got more than the twentieth part of the whole battle.

The affairs of the present condition that our Reg. is in, are such as to render a camp life very disagreeable. Nearly half of our officers are absent and fully half of our privates are sick. While the platoon tells constantly the melancholy news of some departed soldier. If a change for the better does not take place soon we will have no Reg.

It was no ordinary pleasure to us boys to hear today that our sick comrades at Culpeper were doing well and would soon be able to join us again. Nicholas Shamblee also will be well in a few days. The rest of us boys from Yellow River are as well as the disagreeable nature of affairs will admit.

The prospect for another battle soon is good. Our scouts, who have a skirmish with enemy nearly every day, report that there are near 100,000 Yankees between Fairfax C. H. and Alexandria. So You need not be any ways suprised if You hear of an other battle in less than two weeks.

Washington and I want good janes, cut and made at home, and in the usual fashion. As we have never received any uniform Yet, we don't intend to uniform, only in manners. We want good home made janes if we can get it, if not we want a good quality of worsted goods. You may be the judge as to the quality needed. We have no cloathing suitable for winter at all. Dont forget to remind Tandy of min and Wash's boots. Tell him we will settle with him for any trouble or expence the boots may run into and we here say the same to You concerning our cloathing.

This is the seventh letter that I have written home without receiving any answer whatever. I have written twice to Mr. Peden, once to T.W. Brown, twice to Dr. Baxley & twice to You.

I shall expect to hear from You soon. Exercise Your own judgement as regards the quality, quantity & fashion of our clothing.

Our best respects to friends & relatives

And remain as ever,

Your obedient sons, W. M. & T. W. Nash

Manassas Junction August 30^h 1861

Dear Father,

Capt J. W. Fowler is writing to Mr. Hudson this morning relative to some clothing He says that all the clothing neatly packed in a box and sent to his address will come free of charge, and that he will hold himself responsible for the same. But, I would not like to risk much by Rail Road now, unless there was some friend along to keep rascals from getting of it, for there are thousands of thieves here, who will claim ' & prove by others', things that they never saw or heard of before. If Mr. Hudson, Mr. Mills or any of our acquaintances should come to Richmond be sure to put the clothing that you send to me & Wash in their care.

Washington & I would prefere having our cloathing made in the usual fashion: but if the government order it otherwise, You have them made to suit Yourself. We will need an over coat a piece.

Nothing new in camps, the sick are geting better & I think our boys from Yellow River will be well in a few days.

We will hardly have an other battle before next Sunday. Orders this morning to have three days rations cooked and to keep in readiness to march at a minutes warning.

*Obediently Yours &c
WM & T W Nash"*

Centerville Va. Dec. 2nd 1861

Dear Father,

I have an opportunity of sending You a present this morning, It is a gun which was taken on the field where Washington & I were wounded. Lieut. - Hawkins will take it to Occatur, and Mr. Mottson says that he will have it sent from there to You.

It is so cold that I can not write many lines this morning, the ground is now covered with snow, and the prospect is good for plenty more.

Joseph Dilda is dead, he died at Lynchburg. Wm. N. Shamblee, G. W. D. H. W. Mills and D. P. Stokes are now in camp; They and all the boys from about Yellow River are well.

I may have a chance to come home Christmas and if I do I will be sure to come.

Write when You can. Washington is equally concerned, and we remain as ever,

W. M. D. S. W. Nash

Chapter Three

1861 - Fall and Winter

The First Manassas was the only major battle in 1861. There were of course many small skirmishes, none however, counted as a battle. The Union Navy was busy capturing forts along the coast of North and South Carolina. The war in the Western States (Tennessee, Mississippi, etc) was going badly, proved devastating to the South and was later considered to be her downfall.

After the battle of Manassas both armies saw the need to recruit, train and arm their soldiers. Neither side was anxious for more battles before they could get their armies ready for what lay ahead. The brothers went into their winter quarters, a fortification at Centerville, Virginia where the 7th Regiment was stationed. This is a small town just north of Fairfax, Virginia and across the Potomac River from Washington, D. C. The next five letters are full of boredom and illness. This gave them time to be concerned about home and the small details of daily life. It was a difficult time for them, the weather from September to early November was quite pleasant, the bad weather began in late November and continued until spring. They remained there from September, 1861 until late February, 1862.

This was also the first time Washington wrote a letter of his own. He had depended on Milton to do the letter writing for both of them. Tandy Brown had written telling him he would be forgotten by the folks at home if he didn't write a letter himself. There is a major difference in the letters written by Milton and those by Washington. Washington didn't use periods or commas and spelled words just like they sounded. Sometimes it is easier to read these letter aloud and the meaning comes clear. He was great to put in dates and places which makes them historically important. Washington told Lucinda to "*kiss the baby for me*" and the baby born at that time was probably Albert, the fifth child of Tandy W Brown and Lucinda Nash.

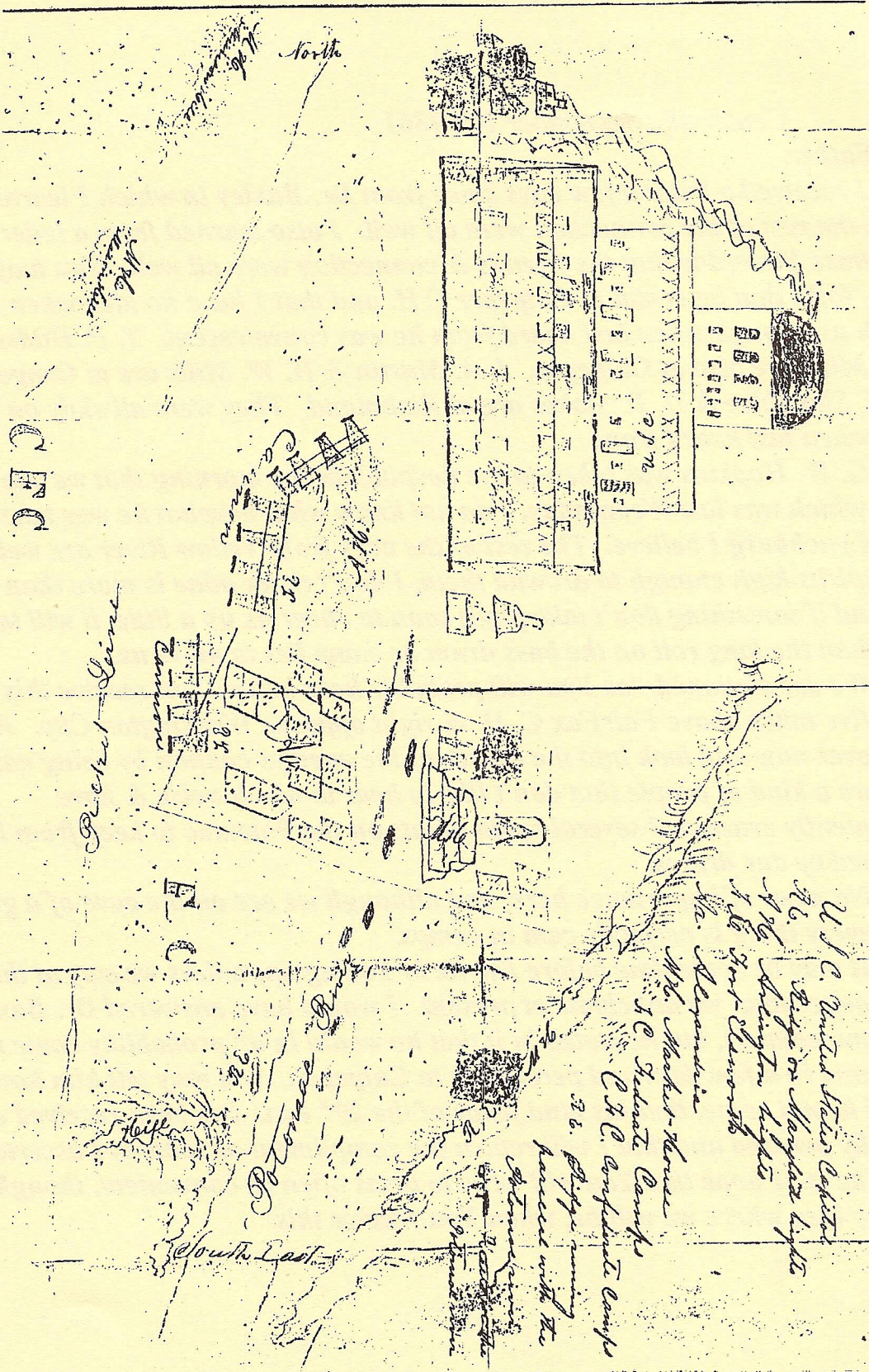
These letters also mentioned the gun taken on the battlefield of the First Manassas. The gun was a "breech loader" and hung, for as many years as I can remember, over the mantel in our home at 1717 Alexander. It was sent home to Robert B. Nash in a roundabout fashion, and when you think about where it ended up, it is a miracle its still around today.

Milton enclosed a hand drawn map of the area where they were. On the map is a hill, named "Munson Hill", overlooking Washington, D. C. The Confederate Army put several "Quaker Guns" on the top of Munson Hill (some books say 16 Quaker guns, some say a couple and some say one) and pointed them toward the city. A "Quaker Gun" was a log painted black and placed in a way as to give the enemy some anxious moments. This ploy kept the Federal troops at bay for several weeks and allowed the South to leave this camp and get to their stronger fortification at Centerville.

General McClellan could see the Quaker Guns and with the information given to him on a daily basis from the Pinkertons he was sure the South had many thousands of men behind those fortifications. Another Union General, Winfield Scott, was just as sure the information was exaggerated and was in constant disagreement with General McClellan. McClellan refused to charge the hill and finally, on the last day of August a New Jersey Colonel, tired of

being intimidated by the snipers firing on his troops, pushed his regiment up the hill. After a brief skirmish and a few of his troops shot, he pulled back, feeling like he had at least done something. A month later, on the 28th of September, General Johnston could not stand it any longer and decided to storm the hill, only to find it abandoned and the gun just a log painted black. Much to General McClellan's chagrin, the ruse worked and he endured a lot of bad press. Unflattering political cartoons were printed for the remainder of the war. Every time he made a mistake, the press brought up the "Quaker Gun."

On the opposite page, there is a copy of a map drawn by Milton to describe the view from their vantage point on the hill overlooking the Potomac River and the Capital Building. The map, drawn to try to explain where everything was located, has other interesting information. Across the picket lines shown on the map, in among the Federal Batteries, is an area labeled Arlington Heights. This is where Arlington Cemetery and the Pentagon are now located. The Capitol Building in 1861 was not completed and is shown as it was, still being built. Munson Hill where the "Quaker Guns" were placed is now a part of Arlington, Virginia.



CFC

Picknet Line

North

Common

Potomac River

Hill

South East

U.S. United States Capitol
 26. Pipe on Maryland light
 27. Arlington light
 28. Fort Stevens
 Mr. Alexander
 Mr. Mark's House
 30. Student Camps
 31. U.S. Engineer's Camps

32. Pipe running
 across with the
 fence

33. Entrance
 to the
 grounds

Centerville September 14th 1861

Dear Father,

I received a letter a few days since from Dr. Baxley in which I learned that You & the rest of the connection were all well. I also learned from a letter to S. D. Holmes Yesterday that the friends & connection were all well. You may tell Sam's folks that he is still at Culpeper C H. and that I have no idea when he will be with us, though when last heard from he was convalescent. T. P. Hudson & G. W. Mills are also at Culpeper. J. A. Martin & H. W. Mills are at Orange C H. Wm N. Shamblee & D. P. Stokes are at Richmond. They were all slowly on the mend when last heard from.

G. W. Hopkins was taken to the hospital on the morning that we started to move, which was last Wednesday, I do not know what hospital he was taken to, but to Lynchburg I believe. The rest of the boys from Yellow River are well, but in no spirits high enough to drown them, I don't think mine is more than waist deep and if something don't take place soon to cheer us up a little, it will take more than the long roll on the bass drum or camp lies to move us.

We are stationed, 'as You will probably hear before You receive this' about five miles above Fairfax C. H. & right opposite Washington City. We can crawl over now and look into the mouth of the enemys cannon by being easy. They are a kind of people that don't like to hear to much noise & have consequently evacuated several small points on the Potomac to keep from being disturbed by our drums.

No news of importance here, and although we are on the eve of a great battle every thing is perfectly calm in camps.

It may be some time before I write to You again, unless we stay at this point longer than we anticipate at present. I would have answered Dr. Baxley's letter immediately, but he stated in it that he would in all probability come to Richmond in a few days and perchance to Culpeper. You may tell him however should he not come, that his kind favor of the 29th inst. has been received & carefully perused and that I will return the compliment as soon as I ascertain where he is. I hope that You will write to us as often as convenient, though I have no idea where we will be, when You receive this.

You may still direct You letters for us, to Richmond. They reach us just as soon when directed there, as when directed where we are stationed.

Write soon,

We are Yours obediently,

Wm. M. & T. W. Nash

P.S. Give our best respects to our friends & relatives, tell them that we would be very glad to see them, and though we may never enjoy that privilege, tell them they have our kindest regards & best wishes for Their future success & prosperity.

Wm. M. & T. W. N

Centerville Oct 31st 1861

Dear Mother,

You will find \$20.00 dollars inclosed which we intend for Janny, Sister Betsy & Lucinda.

We have nothing particular to write this morning, Mrs. Martin & Camer are going to start home this evening. It is rather a sad thing to go with us; they were expecting to stay two weeks. Yesterday evening, I will write to You in a few days again, the probability is that we may draw ~~some~~ money soon and if we do, or I in particular want to send mine home. We have to spend a good deal of money here much more than I had any idea of.

I will write again tomorrow, if we do not have to move.

We remain as ever

Your obedient sons

Wm M. D. S. M. Ketch

P.S. a gold dollar a piece for Janny, Betsy & Lucinda

W. M. D. S. M. Ketch

Centerville Oct 21st, 1861

Dear Father,

You will find \$23.00. dollars inclosed which we intend for Fanny, Sister Betsy & Lucinda.

We have nothing particular to write this morning Majors Martin & Garner are going to start home this morning. It is rather a suddent go with us; they were expecting to stay two weeks Yesterday morning. I will write to You in a few days again, The probability is that we may draw some money soon and if we do, or I in particular want to send mine home. We have to spend a good deal of money here much more that I had any idea of.

I will write again tomorrow if we do not have to move.

We remain as ever

Your obedient sons,

Wm. M & T. W. Nash

P. S. a gold dollar a piece for Fanny, Betsy & Lucinda

W. M. & T. W. N_____

Centerville October 26, 1861

Dear Father,

Not having anything interesting or important to write this morning, will as briefly as possible, tell you what I would been very happy to have done before now. But for the suddent and unexpected evaporation of Majors Martin and Garner was prevented from doing so.

I am due Mr. Hardman five dollars which he loaned to me and it has been negligence in me not to have returned it long since. I will draw money in a few days which I will convey to you. If possible then when convenient you will oblige me 'and possible others' by settling that due Mr. Hardman and also in paying any taxes. It is none of my fault that my taxes were not paid. I offered to pay them twice myself, but the collector didn't have time. Joseph Culver wanted to settle my taxes, he was owing me money at the time, but the collector allowed that some other time would do just as well, was not sure if they had not been paid by C. I am owing other debts which I would like to settle, but if you can not make no collections for me they will have to go unsettled yet a while.

I will write to you again in a few days.

Yours obediently,

Wm M. Nash

P. S. G. W. Mills has been taken to the hospital again he was very feeble when he left camp.

WMN

Centerville Va Dec. 2nd 1861

Dear Father,

I have an opportunity of sending you a present this morning, It is a gun which was taken on the field where Washington & I were wounded. Lieut. Hawkins will take it to Decatur, and Mr. Morton says that he will have it sent from there to You.

It is so cold that I can not write many lines this morning, the ground is now covered with snow, and the prospect is good for plenty more.

Joseph Dilda is dead, he died at Lynchburg. Wm N. Shamblee, G. W. & H. W. Mills and D. P. Stoks are now in camps; they and all the boys from about Yellow River are well.

I may have a chance to come home christmas and if I do I will be sure to come.

Write when You can. Washington is equally concerned, and we remain as ever.

W. M. & T. W. Nash

Campe Center vill the 7th 1861(December 7th 1861)

Der Father I take the opportunity to informe you that I and Brother is well at this time and all the rest of the Gwinnett Bouys is well onley John Forde he has the Mumps this Mornind Seams very Solum to us the order come to us and was Read to us Hit was that we wod have to Figt in ten days we war on picet gard the waggin has all cross the River and they ar coming an our awrdare is to Retreat Slow and Fire on them we will hav to Fight Sertin in a few days they are coming By the thousins thar is a greate stear in camps Mr hawkins will Brin to the Decatur one gun and Stick that come of ove the Batteel Field they will be brote to you By Mr. Martin Son I hav Sente Forty dollar home By Mr Cooper to pay for my clothing and Boots William Jonson landed in camps the 2 day of this monte and Sed that all ove our folks was well his Son is very Sick Tandy Brown Roat to me that if I did not Right that the Folks wod Forgit me you may tell them that I am in Verginnia and wais one hundred and ninty seven llbs I wod like to See you all tell Faney Sister Sindy and Sister Elizabeth howdy for me

tell the children I want to see them very Bad tell Sindy to kiss the Baby for me if I was at home I could tell you maney things that you wod like to her and it wod do me good to tell hit we will have a Bloody time her if thay attack us her the cooier Ses that thay are advancin in very quater We ar well fortifide her So I will come to a close you must Right to me when you can I Remain you obedient Son

*Thomas W. Nash to
Robert B. Nash*

P. S. I have conveyed by Leiut. Hawkins a gun for You which was taken on the battle field the day of the battle. So if You should have any Yankees to fight You can do it with their own weapon.

Mr. Hawkins will take the gun to decatur, from thence it will be conveied to You by Mr. Morton's son.

Washington has wrote all the news in camps I believe.

Yours with much respect &c.

W. M. Nash

Chapter Four

Early 1862

The brothers were still in Centerville, Virginia when this next letter dated February 26, 1862 was written. Again, their biggest worry was lack of mail from home and the clothing they anticipated receiving. Milton wrote about the furloughs promised and the bounty for re-enlistment. The "Furlough Act" was enacted because few men volunteered to remain in the army after they had experienced the dull life they lead through the fall of 1861. At home their families were suffering and crops went unplanted. Life in a tent or a crude log hut in a place full of mud and snow was miserable. With the Furlough Act, the Confederates hoped soldiers would sign up for three more years or the duration of the war, in case it ended sooner. They would receive a 60 day furlough and a \$50 bounty. Further, on their return they would be able to transfer into any outfit they chose, even another branch of service and elect their own company officers. General Johnson realized they would need some encouragement, but the only part of the Furlough Act which met his approval, was the bounty. The rest, he felt, would ruin the army and if the furloughs were granted in large numbers it would reduce the number of troops and expose the remainder of men to slaughter by the Union Army. Needless to say, the furloughs ended almost as soon as they started.

The box of clothes they asked for and needed had never arrived. This was a common problem for everyone, railroad shipments were frequently stolen by friends and enemy. Their letters became a kind of frantic appeal.

When our father, Tandy P. Brown, was going through the Civil War letters that he was preparing to distribute among us, he told us a story about sending clothing:

It seems there was a soldier who wrote home to his mother to "please send him a pair of boots." She bought the boots and not understanding how it worked, but thinking anything could be sent over the telegraph wires, put his name on the boots and put them at the base of the telegraph pole. Later, someone came along and seeing the good pair of boots, traded them for his own and placing his worn boots at the foot of the pole went on his merry way. The next day, the mother came back to the telegraph pole and seeing the worn boots at the foot of the pole was sure her son had received his new boots."

This is a story, evidently told many times by his family, about the Civil War, and Dad loved telling it.

In his February letter Milton mentions, for the first time, the war in the West. He said the news was discouraging and it was indeed. The South was losing many skirmishes and the forts along the coast of the Mississippi River were being taken by the North.

Milton speaks of Miss Victoria, which is Britain, and her Long Toms, the cannons she would bring into the fight. He also says Tandy should not get into the war, and he would do Tandy's fighting. According to records held at the National Archives in Washington D. C., Tandy joined the confederate Army in 1863, he went in as a private in Company C, 10th Cavalry and he was released from the army at the end of the war as a private. Washington

Washington said he would do Robert Nash's fighting, if he will give him the Tony House. Probably a choice piece of property or a family joke.

There is mention of Frank (Francis Young Nash) Nash, he was a cousin of the brothers and the son of Ned Nash. He is mentioned again, after he dies.

This was the last time Washington and Milton were together. After the first of March, 1862, Washington became ill and was hospitalized for about 6 months, and Milton continued on with the 7th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers to fight in the Peninsula Campaign with General Robert E. Lee.

*Camp Sam Jones, Near
Centerville February 26th 1862*

Dear Father

We received Yours Yesterday evening and was as glad as You ever saw two boys in Your life. We had a very nearly despaired of ever hearing from You again. All the rest of the Gwinnett boys gets at least, a letter a week, from their friends while we rarely get one from You at all.

I expected to have been at home before now, but when I got ready to go, the furlough system plaid out without granting me one and as a matter of course I am still in old Virginia. There are many in the Regt who are reinlisting for two Years longer on the promise of a furlough to go home and were it-not-that I thought it all a humbug I would reinlist myself, but they have fooled the Regt. once and I think that is enough. Wash says that he is not going to reinlist till after his time is up in the present enlistment.

Captain Fowler will be off for home tomorrow and will resign, I suppose as he goes through Richmond. I have been talking to him this morning relative to the box of clothing which you sent to me soon after my arrival in this State. He says that he has never given any receipt for the box & I am certain that he never has. He will be at home though in a few days and then, when ever it is convenient You can go down and see him. \$39.00 dollars was quite a small estimate for the box. One of the coats, which I had never worn scarcely cost me \$25.00 and the rest of the clothing was good. And would sell here for at least \$100.00.

We hear discouraging news occasionally from the Western States, but I hope that we will soon have an opportunity of convincing the Yankees that they will have to be successful in more than one place before they can feast on "good things and pretty women" as they brag they intend to do when they get to Richmond. Miss Victoria says she wishes to remain neutral, which we hope She will do, and also to keep her long Toms out of the possession of the Yankees.

The Gwinnett boys are all well and in lively moods, each one trying to out vie the rest by tricks &c.

It would be a great pleasure to me just to be with you all a few days. I think I could tell you things that would interest you for longer than a day or two.

What the old Captain will tell you, if you see him, will be more interesting probably than my writing, and besides Wash says that he is going to send a few lines by the Captain to you.

Tell Dr. Baxley that I consider that he is due me a letter as I have written to him since I have received any news from him.

I don't think that Tandy need get anyways uneasy about the result or termination of the war. We have all resolved to conquer or die and if he could only hear the soldiers here begging to have the black flag hoisted, he would soon see that the Yankees would have more to do than brag, or to ly down and say "we surrender" just for the sake of geting to Richmond or New Orleans.

Tell Mr. Peden & Tandy that I will do their part of the fighting. Wash says that he will do Yours provided You will give him the Tony house when the war is over.

Tell Grand Mother that she would hardly know Frank now, if she was to see him. Frank is a nice looking soldier and has the confidance of all the boys who know him. I would be very happy to see Grand Mother, and also the rest of my connection. Give my respects and best wishes to all. Tell Sullivan Osborn that I have not forgotten him at all, and that I hope that he will still remain with You. Write soon.

My respects and best wishes to You, Fanny & Mrs. Osborn. Wash says that he will write you a few lines also.

W. M. Nash

Chapter Five

The College Hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia

The next two letters were written by Washington from the hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia. He doesn't say if his illness is due to wounds or one of the illnesses so prevalent in the Army at that time. It could have been Typhoid Fever, Diahrea, Small Pox or anything. These men were living in very poor conditions, bad water and housing, no sanitation. Disease was a major factor in the number of deaths during the war.

Some additional information regarding this period of time is in the book "A Prototype of a Confederate Hospital Center in Lynchburg, Virginia" by Dr. Peter W. Houck of Lynchburg Virginia. He wrote about the history of all the hospitals in the Lynchburg area during the Civil War and through his correspondence, I learned about Washington's hospital.

There were no hospitals in Lynchburg at the beginning of the war. There was a College and lots of Tobacco Factories. The factories were huge buildings used as storage for the tobacco leaves until they were sold. The tobacco crop was eliminated because of the war and there wasn't any tobacco to store. The buildings were filthy, airless, and a terrible place for the wounded and sick, but they were huge and empty and these were desperate times. They also used hotels, meetings halls, stables, tents and the pest houses. The homes in Lynchburg could not take anymore wounded and much of the disease was contagious so they didn't want to use homes for those patients.

In 1861, Lynchburg was the best place for the hospitals. There were three railroads coming into the town, also the James River and a canal, so access was fairly easy to bring in the wounded and sick. Another plus, Lynchburg was remote from the battles, a battle was fought there much later in the war, but at this time it was considered safe.

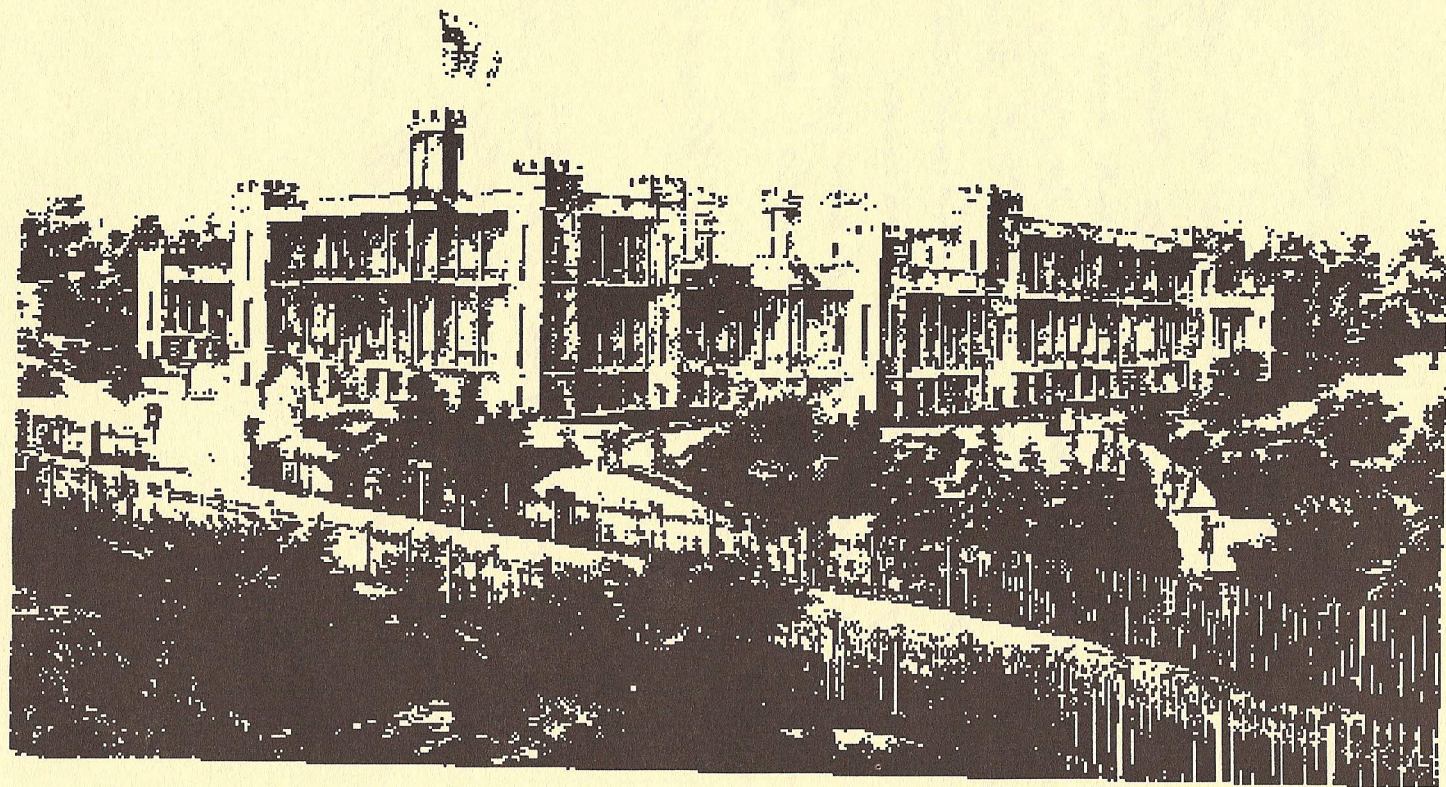
It is interesting to note, the very first hospital to open in Lynchburg was the College Hospital and this is where Washington was a patient. I've enclosed a picture of the College Hospital. It has long since been torn down, but Dr. Houck gave me permission to use this picture.

Washington wrote saying he worked for the Hospital Steward and the Ward Master, which would have been a pretty good job. In the chain of command, the Surgeon General was in charge of all the hospitals and stationed in Richmond. The Chief Surgeon was next, followed by the Division Surgeons, the hospital Steward, the Clerk and the Ward Master. The chain of command remains the same today as it was during the Civil War. The Hospital Steward is a commissioned officer and the Ward Master is an NCO.

Washington was in the College Hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia and Dr. D. B. Smith was the director. It took a little research to find this information. His writing looked like he was writing "Coleg" or "Coledg" hospital, but after corresponding with Dr. Peter W. Houck of Lynchburg, Virginia, we have come to the conclusion his spelling is an adulteration of the word College and Washington was in that hospital.

Washington said to address his letters in care of Dr. D. B. Smith who was listed in all the directories for the hospitals in Lynchburg as the Director of the College Hospital and this information confirmed my belief regarding the hospitals name. Later they combined College and Ferguson Hospitals, it became General Hospital #1.

His first letter is very brief and written to Milton, his second letter is to his father, Robert Nash. He likes being at the hospital, saying it was better than the camp and he was *“very satisfied”* and has *“no chance to come home until the war is over.”* This could be because the College Hospital was the only hospital other than Ladies’ Relief that had women nurses. Once again he pleads for letters from home. He asked Tandy to write and tell him the status of the settlement. The settlement being the bounty offered to all men joining the Army. It would be my bet they didn’t ever get their bounty because the South could barely afford to pay the monthly wages. It is interesting to note, the paymasters were instructed not to pay the soldiers if the payday came on the same day as an impending battle. The logic was, if the men were killed in battle, there wasn’t any sense losing their money.



Sketch of "old" Lynchburg College, Demolished

Lincolnton Va March the 5 1861

Dear Brother

I am now at the
house pitler I am very Weak at
this time we lost one on the
way the Treatment is very good
so fare I think that I will be
at home before long we heard that
you was figing in Center well

I wou like to hear from you
if you have moved so nothing
more at present

Thomas W. Warren
to W. W.

Direct your letter to
colony house pitler
Lincolnton Va
in care of Dr D. B. Smith

Lynchburg Va March the 8 1862

Dear Brother

*I am now at the horsepittel I am very weeake at this time We lost one
on the way the treatement is vry good so fare I thinke that I will be at home
befolong We heard that you was figin in Centervill
I wod like to her from you if you hav mooved So nothin more at present*

*Thomas W. Nash
To W.M.*

*Direct you letter to coledg horsepittle
Lynchburge VA
in care of Dr. D. B. Smith*

Lynchburg Va May the 11 1862

Der Father

I now the opportunity to inform you that I am well at this time hoping that few lines may find you enjoy the same like Blethin

I am now at Lynchburg I am detaled her to assist the Ward Master and the Sturde of the Horsepitle I was very sick when I came her I hav a good time her to what I had in camps I am very well satsfide her thar is no chance to come home till the ware in over It is now plesent her and helty

We ar located one half of a mile frome the Sity in a Butiful Coled Thar is aboute three thousen sick her I hav not herd from Bother Milton in Sometime I wod lik to her from him very much Tell Tandy and Sister Sindy I wood lik to see them Tell awll the children I wod lik to her from them tell Tandy he muste wright to me as soon as he herse frome me and give me a history of the settlement thay hav press us all in for the ware I Recons you all will lok for us home now I am sertin not to come you may tell all my connection that I am well Tell them I wod lik to her from them So I must come to a close you must right soon. Tell Tandy he must right Drect you letter to Lynchburg Va in car of D. B. Smith Coled Horsepital

*Thomas W Nash to
Robert B Nash*

Chapter Six Milton's Death

Of all the letters, these next four are my favorites. They show a deep and abiding love of a man for his son, his belief in God and the acceptance of the way things were in 1862. In the Spring, Washington was in the hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia and Milton had continued with the Georgia 7th Regiment to fight with General Robert E. Lee in the Peninsula Campaign. He had fought in the Yorktown Siege (April, 1862), Lee's Mill (April 16, 1862), Williamsburg (May 5, 1862) and the Seven Days Battle (June 26 to July 1, 1862).

In Elizabeth Roberson's book, "Weep Not For Me, Dear Mother", another Gwinnett County soldier, Eli Landers wrote a letter to his mother on April 23rd, 1862 in which he mentions the action of the Georgia 7th Regiment. He describes the tide of battle turning against the south and then:

"There was the 7th, 8th, 11th, and 16th Georgia Regiments engaged in the fight, along with the 5th North Carolina and a Louisiana Regiment. The Yankees made the North Carolina regiment retreat from their own breast works and the Yanks took it but in come our 7th Georgia brothers and their colonel immediately ordered a charge and the brave boys obeyed the command with the greatest applause and hollering and retook the battery without the loss of a man with one or two wounded."

The Georgia Volunteers are now famous for their rebel yell and their courage in battle

On June 26, 1862, the Seven Days Battle begins and on the June 27th (according to the pension request) or June 28th (according to Military records), Milton was wounded at Garnett's Farm and taken to the Christian and Lea Hospital in Richmond, Virginia.

The Christian & Lea hospital was first a tobacco factory, just a huge building were the tobacco was stored and allowed to dry. Later it was converted into an insane asylum, then a prison hospital and at the time of the Civil war it was pressed into duty as a hospital for the Confederate wounded. This hospital was a terrible place, it was filthy, sanitation was not a priority, the ventilation was very poor, made even more unbearable in the heat of July. It was fly infested, overcrowded, and had a severe lack of nurses and doctors. As you read his letter you will understand why Milton was very unhappy there, and would have loved to have been moved to the country where there was fresh air and clean water.

Milton's wounds were severe and he said they had removed his left foot and part of his leg. The letter is moving, not only because it was probably the last letter he ever wrote but because he was concerned about his fellow men. He says, "*several of the other Gwinnett Boys sustained wounds as bad if not worse as mine*" he told who they were and what kind of wounds they suffered. His concern was not self pity, he just simply wanted to get out of there and was afraid of getting the "fever." The "fever" was caused from infection and gangrene which set in because of the unsanitary surgical instruments and hospital conditions. In the end, he died from the fever.

*Christian & Lee Hospital
Richmond, July 10th /62*

Dear Father,

I suppose that you have heard before now of my misfortune about two weeks ago a piece of shell struck me on the lower part of the shin bone shattering both bones all to pieces causing me to have to loose my foot and part of the leg. Left foot.

The Doctors say that the wound is doing very well but that they do not believe that it will heal by first intentions.

Several others of the Gwinnett boys sustained as bad if not worse wounds than mine. Nicholas Shamblee had his arm shot off and was also wounds in the side & head. William Carroll was shot through left side, wound considered mortal. Thos. Carroll wounded in the shoulder considered very dangerous. George Garner flesh wound in the arm, not dangerous. Wm. Dilda S D Holmes H W Mills & probably some of the other boys was slightly wounded.

I do not like the Hospital that I am in at all. It is crowded, hot as a stove, no attentions, nor no water that is fit for a horse to drink. Drs. Baxley & Mathews is trying to make arrangements to move us out of the city to some grove where we can have pure air & good water and I hope they may be successful. Dr. Baxley requested me to state in my letter that his family & relatives, be informed that he was now in Richmond in good helth and would remain here probably for sometime.

The rest of the Yellow River boys that was not wounded are in good helth so far as I know, except John Ford, it is thought that he has the dropsy. He is able to go about & has been to see me several times since I have been here.

Excuse my bad writing. I have to hold the paper in one hand and write with other while my position is lying flat on my back. I would like to hear from you but do not know where to tell you to write to as I may be moved tommorrow.

Give my respects to relatives & friends. I would like to see be with you but suppose it will be several days before I have that pleasure.

My helth remains good and what I most dread at this Hospital is the fever.

Your affectionate son,

W. M. Nash

Robert Nash, Milton's father arrived in Richmond on July the 14, 1862 and went to the Christian and Lea Hospital where he found Milton. Robert is unable to write and the first letter was written for him by Milton. He sent the letter to his wife Frances telling her he has arrived, it was a good trip and he has found Milton. He spoke of Milton and his condition. He said Washington was still in Lynchburg. Washington was still in the hospital at Lynchburg and Robert hoped he could get him to come to Richmond. He also wrote about the other people from home who were there, in the area and in the hospital.

On July 17th, Robert sent a second letter, a very brief letter written in haste. The same person, unidentified, wrote this and the next letter for him. He uses the "&" a lot and at this point is deeply concerned about Milton and doesn't believe he will live. He was very concerned.

Thursday evening, July 17, 1862 at 7:00 p. m. Milton passed away.

On July 19th, Robert sent the third letter to Frances telling her Milton has passed on. He wrote to say Milton had asked to be buried in a Soldiers grave and since they knew it would be impossible to bring him home, they buried him in the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond Virginia.

Christian & Leas Hospital Richmond, Virginia July 14, 1862

*Dear Wife I landis hear on sonday knight I stood the trip verry well I was detained one day on the account of connections of tranes I was proud to find Milton he was better of then I expected to find him he is doing as well as could be expected under all sircumstances he says he thinks he will be able to come home in the corse of six or eight weeaks or maby sooner if he hav good luck I am going to stay untill I can get a more suitble place for him if possible Doctor Mathews wants me to get him in some cool place whare we can get good water it is quite a warme place hear and are pesterd with the flies hear they are so manny sick and mangle Mathews says he will asist me in geting him off he wants to get all of the Gwinnett boys to geather if possible if he dos he will stay and attend to them we could not get a beter one to attend to the boys I am in hopes we will get them to geather I have not seean manny of the boys yet but them that is not wonded are in camps. Washington is still in Lynchburg I hav not seen him yet but I may get to see him before I come home. Thomas Carrole and Nickelaus Shamblee is pretty bad off I hav not seen them my self but Doctor Mathews is just from the house whare James was in he says James is verry low he is down with the feavor I seean Miltons leg drest this morning Dr Mathews helped to dress it I hav not seean Dr. Baxley yet the information I get says he is down with the in the Regiment with Thomas Hudson and his brothers in the 11 Georgia Regiment S B Holmes is hear now to see Milton He is in about stout as ever him and John Ford has bin down to see him 4 or 5 times S B Holmes will come down in the morning to stay with him as a nurs if he can git off his Capt requested him to do so it was Miltons request for him to come and stay with him. I am in good health & hope this will come to home and find you and family all well and dooing well Dont be uneasy about me I will be at home shortly if good luck so giv my best respects to neighbors and friends & save a portion for your self.
Your afectionate Husband &c*

R. B. Nash

William Dilda and George Parner started home on sonday morning I never got to see them they went the uper rout they will be at home in a few days.

Richmond, Virginia July 17, 1862

My Dear Wife

Since I last wrote you I regret deeply to say that our son William Milton is very much worse Further I have my worst fears that he will not live many days, tho' I hope for the best -- I am in constant attendance on him night & day & watch his every movement, a great change for the worse has come over him in the last day or two that causes serious apprehension for the result in my mind -- he has every comfort that can be bestowed upon him.--

I hope you & the family are all well & if our Son should by an all wise providence be taken from us, we must bear in meek submission to our Heavenly Father who doeth all things for our benefit and good -- don't be uneasy until I return & I hope that all of you will bear this affliction as becometh the Children of God

*Very Affectionately Yours
R. B. Nash*

Richmond Virginia July 19th 62

My Dear Wife

I deeply regret to say that our dearly beloved Son departed this life on Thursday Eve at 7 o'clock — he was attacked with a very severe chill on Tuesday night and a second chill on Thursday morning — he appeared to suffer very acute & severe pains after the chills, was perfectly sensible to everything until some few minutes previous to his death & told me all he desired me to do as to his temporal affairs — he was fully aware that he was approaching his end & he gradually sank away until his demise — he desired to be buried in a soldiers grave as he expressed a wish & desire to be. Knowing that it would be next to an impossibility for his remains to be carried home — if he could not live to see all nearly & dearly attached to him by Every tie of relationship & friendship he desired that such dispensation should be made of his last remains — this request of his I have carried out he was neatly & genteely encased in a very fine coffin which was placed in a wooden case this remains Carried out to Holywood Cemetery a beautiful & pretty spot it is — a head piece with his name, Company, Regiment & date of his death marks the spot where he now rests — I have carried out his own wishes & desires faithfully as he expressed in his lifetime — should however his Brother & myself think proper to remove his remains home in the winter it can readily be done — all that could be done for poor Milton both in a medical & kindly way was done, but all efforts proved unavailing — for this dispensation of providence, hard tho it seems we must bear with meek submission, Knowing that our Heavenly Father doeth all things well —

I shall be some Sundays yet before I return home but do not be uneasy. Washington I telegraphed to at Lynchburg about 150 miles from here to come on here 'ere his Brother died but so far he has not come — I shall call there & see him before I return, and as Milton's business needs winding up here it is necessary. I should stay a few days longer & get everything settled up —

*Kind love to all — from
Your very affectionate
R. B. Nash*

I telegraphed to ~~Milton~~ Washington at Lynchburg but he did not come on - therefore I shall call & see him -

According to the records on file at the National Archives in Washington, D. C., on July 19, 1862, Robert Nash applied for the Death Pension of William Milton Nash. The request was approved and an amount of \$100.23 was given Robert B. Nash on the 23rd of July, 1862. \$50.00 was the Bounty and \$50.23 was payment for four months and seventeen days service. Another fact, Robert Nash's signature is a witnessed "X". There are three letters Robert sent to his wife, Frances regarding Milton's condition, and no mention they were written by someone else. However, when I discovered he had signed the pension application with an X, I returned to the letters and sure enough, even though they are signed Robert B. Nash, they are written by different people and in different handwriting. The first one written on July 14, 1862 is in handwriting similar to Milton's, the handwriting of the other two is the same, but there isn't anyway to know who wrote those two letters.

A proper ending to this chapter, Bob and I traveled to The Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. We were informed William Milton Nash of Company E, 7th Regiment of the Georgia Volunteers, date of death, July 17th, 1862 is indeed buried at the Hollywood Cemetery in the Confederate Soldiers Section. When Bob and I visited his grave, there wasn't a headstone. We found row "M" and knew from the records he was in grave number six. The cemetery personnel told us Congress had, in 1977, voted to extend veteran benefits to Confederate Soldiers and Milton was eligible for a military marker to be placed on his grave. Bob and I completed the paper work and sent it in, hoping he, too, could have a marker on his grave.

A headstone with his name, unit and date of death, was placed on his grave on December 28, 1996. His grave is on the side of a hill, under a couple of huge shade trees and across the road from the Confederate Monument. The cemetery overlooks the James River and there are some notable people buried there; Jefferson Davis, James Monroe, John Tyler, George Pickett, and Jeb Stuart, along with many others. William Milton Nash is in good company.

Camp Camp Mountain Bridge Sept 20-186

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity to inform
you that I am well at present
I have had no chance to write to
you. Since you wrote me tell now
I have been in Maryland to several
towns and one city we found some
friends and some enemy I have
been in two hard fights since I
saw you I have been hit but not
killed. Badly I am now detached to drive
a safe wagon my time is not so
hard now as it was before it is very
confusing I want to hear from home
very much now you must write to
me. I want to see Brown I want to see
him and sister Sindy and the
children that I would like to see
them I want to see you all
and tell you about the fight
William Mills was shot thru the
breast I P Hudson in the neck
I Ford in arm 24. - killed and
wounded in our company I have not
heard from them since I left the
Battle Field I have not been with
the Regiment in the war I am
in the Peer all the time now
I think I will get to Rest
a while I think I will come home
when I can we are going to Maryland

So Good By

Thomas Weston
R. B. et al

Chapter Seven

Washington Continues in the War

After taking care of Milton's business, Robert traveled to Lynchburg to see Washington. Washington had remained in the hospital at Lynchburg, Virginia until he returned to his unit, probably in early August. On September 20th, 1862, Washington wrote to his father telling him this was his first chance to write since Robert had been to visit him. Washington had a busy August and September. He had journeyed to Maryland and wrote there were fights along the way. These two letters are interesting because he has given us dates and it was easy to trace his trail and compare with the history books.

The Georgia 7th Regiment had fought at Rappahannock Station on August 23rd, they continued to Thoroughfare Gap (Washington refers to it as "Downen" Gap) and fought on August 28th. The Second Manassas Battle was August 29th and 30th. He wrote of another battle on the North Side of Centerville. This would have been on September 1st and was a battle at Chantilly or Ox Hill, Virginia. At this point, the South had repulsed the North and General Polk had pulled back to protect Washington, D. C.

The next major battle was Antietam on September 17, 1862. Washington was at Antietam, but he didn't fight in the battle. He had been wounded and was assigned to a supply wagon. He wrote, "*I have bin in two hard fight sense I seed you I have bin hit but not herte Bade.*" The battle at Antietam was a terrible fight, one of the bloodiest of the war.

Washington's friend, J. W. Shamblee had been to visit and evidently told him, he and Tandy Brown were going to organize a unit and fight. Washington said he found out they were drunk and proceeded to warn them against any action.

Camp Martons Burge Sept. 20 - 1862

Der Father,

*I take the opportunity to informe you that I am well at present.
I have had no cance to rite to you sens you lefte me till now
I have bin in Marland to Sevrill town and one Sity we found some friends
and some enemy I have bin in two hard fight sense I seed you I have bin
hit but not herte Bade I am now Detald to Drive a Safe Waggon My time
is not so hard now as it was be fore it is very confinning I wante to her
frome home very much you must Rite to me T W Browne I wante to
See him and sister Sindy and the children that I wok Like to See them I
wante to See you all and tell you aboute the Fight William Mills Was
shote throu the Breste T P Hudson in the hed L Forde in arme 26 kill
and wonde in our company. I have not herd from them sens I Lefte the
Battle Field I have not bin with the Regiment in to weaks I am in the
Reer all the time now*

*I think I will get to Rest a while I think I will come home when I
cane We are going to Move now*

So Good By

*Thomas W. Nash
to R. B. Nash*

Camp Winchester, VA Sept 29 1862

Der Father

I now ansser you letter date the 9th instance which I received today I have Riten two letter to you sens I have bin in Marland it has bin two months sens we hav had a reglar maile This maile is By chance onley Well I will tell you aboute the Fights we hav had her the Raperhanic Fight was on the 28th day of August the nex Fight was at the DOWEN GAPE the nex Fight was at Manasses which was two day fight the nex Fight was on the North Side of Sentervill the nex Move was to Leeseburge where I thought We would Reste and I could Rite home in sted of Restin the nex move was to go to Marland We march to Fredericke Sity then to Heggers town pasen other smaule town then to Boonsboro to Fightin agin then to Sharpe burge the Greate Fight was Foute I was not in the Marland Fight I am detaled to go with the Ofiser Baggage Train the nex Move will be I dont now wher and I dont car wher we are now her as Jackson Foote Cavalry well you hav herd kill and wounde in our Regiment before this time So thar is no use of me Sayin anything aboute it — thar is no idel Bread eat her We are in a Fight or going to Fight J.W. Shamblee is with me now the Buysness which he cam to see aboute I thinke it doutfull the Army is in a bad condission to atten to any Such biusness tell all my connecion that I am well at this time and I would like to her from them all

Mr. T. W. Browne

Dear Sir I her that you and J. W. Shamblee is a goin to mak up a Compney thare that will whip all that is on the other Side of the Mason and Dixson line. I have sense Lernd that you compny was well Sweeten with Corn Serip So now my advise to you is to git in Some horse compney if you want to git out Well in this ware and Stay out of Varginia All that come her has to Fight as you have a famley to take cer of you had beter not come her Tandy the ware is a Dam bad place to come to and you will See it when you come to hit

You may look for me when the war is closed it is on sertin whether this letter came to hand or not but if it dont I wish the maile was Burnte

So -- I have to go now Thomas W. Nash

To R. B. Nash

DATE OF ISSUE: Camp MONEY VALUE: 1/2 of Winchester RATE: NUMBER: Oct 30 1862 WITHIN: 1862

Dear Mother
 I know how the opportunity to answer you after that I received a few days ago we have been moving in the direction of Stanton the base of the Army is at the same place it is said that we have the shovels for in our Regiment they have died with it we are just a way from the enemy and one one is admitted to come in our lines and we are not allowed to go out any when we slip out we are camp on Cedar Creek it seems round the mountain side that of Valley River at the old horse shoe the fence has but a small piece of cap up no pardon are admitted to cross the line except Commissioned Officers but if you was here a quite one or short in the night you would think that the privs was afraid to show the creek and they look out for the game and chicken on any thing that they can get we have not here from our woods in some time I Mills & D. Holmes is in camp they are well I think what is not his herd of Hens we hope Richman I do not know where he is he is doing well I guess as for Furlow they have passed out and I wish they was all in hell as for had to stay there till the war was over some of our best men are offered to let that we will be in Ga in three weeks as for my pants I rather stay here and as for the pants for pot I dont think that it is here I have no use of it as for nurse about the war I have some the health of the Army is good at this time I havin some a good person sends the light till Harry Blue O'Leary is well and he received a letter from his mother and they are all well Blue lost his Cosen in the Monasso fight Blue first finger on the left hand is shot off and middle finger is stiff and his Brother spoke to him to get Philadelphia Regiment well you may look for me when you see me coming you may send me one pair of pants also send one pair of drawers if you get any chance and be better to send them by some body that will bring them to me if you have no good chance send them to me one dole if as much as I want so I will close for the present I remain your Obedient Son until cloth I cant get I have no chance to put on my shell and

E. S. Wash Thomas, W. C. et al
 Commanding Company

Chapter Eight

Small Pox

After the Battle of Antietam, it was quiet for a while. The Confederate troops returned to Winchester to resupply and the troops on both sides needed to let their troops heal.

In several letters, you will notice he mentions small pox. It was an epidemic killing almost as many people as died from wounds suffered in battle. A horrible disease they could not control. Many men had small pox before they went into battle and if they were wounded they brought it with them into the hospitals. As a result, men in the hospitals contacted the disease and died. They thought the open sores should not be washed and cleanliness was not part of any treatment, with dire consequences.

In his letter written on October 20, 1862, Washington wrote that the 7th Georgia had been sent away from the rest of the army. They were sent about fourteen miles south of Winchester in the direction of Staunton, Virginia. They were suspected of having small pox in their ranks. He wrote saying two had died from the disease and no one was allowed to come see them, but he said, if you were around about 1 o'clock in the morning everyone took off to steal hogs and chickens and whatever else they could find.

In Elizabeth Robertson's book, "Weep Not For Me Dear Mother," Eli Landers wrote to his mother on October 17, 1862 and said: "*There is a good many cases of the small pox with us, but there has not been but 2 cases in our regiment, yet though it was reported yesterday that nearly all of the 7th Ga Regt. had them.*"

In some of the history books, the small pox epidemic in the 7th Georgia is also mentioned. It was very serious.

Campe in 14 of Winchester Oct 20 the 1862

Der Father

I now have the opportunity to ansser you Letter that I Recived a few days ago we have bin moved in the direction of Stanton the Rest of the Army is at the Same place it is sead that we have the Smaul pox in our Regiment two have did with it we are Sent away from the Army and no one is admited to come in our Lines and we ar not aloud to go oute onley when we Slip out we are camp on Seder Creeak it Bends round the mountain lik that of Yallow River at the old Horse Shoo the Gard has but Smaule meet to Cap up no person are admited to cros the line except Commisison Offiser but if you was her a aboute one o clock in the night you wold think that the privit was pasin to thay wade the Creeak - and then look out for Hogs be gam or a checkin or any thing that thay can git. We have not heard from our Woneded in som time I Mills S. D. Holems is in campe thay are well F M Nash is not bin herd of sens we lefte Richmon I no not where he is he is doin well I guess as for Furlow thay have plade out and I wish thay war all in hell and had to stay thare till the ware was over Som of our head men are offer to bet that we will be in Ga in three weeaks as for my parte I drother stay her and as for the smaule pox I dont think that it is her I hav no sense of it as for nuse about the ware I have none The helth of the Armeys is Good at this time I havin seen a deid person sens the Fight tell Faney Blue Osburn is well and he Received a letter from his Mother and thay are all well Blue lost his cozen in the Manases Fight Blue first finger on the lefte hand is shot off and midel finger is stiff and his Brother poke is her to in Phillips Regiment well you may look for me when you See me coming You may send me one pare of pants two shirts one pare of drawers if you get any chance and be sertin to send them by some body that will brin them to me if you have no good chance dont Send them to me one Soote is as much as I want So I will close for the present I Remain you Obediant Son untill deth I have no Stampe to put on my letter and I cant get

Thomas W. Nash to R. B. Nash

Chapter Nine

Early 1863

The quiet lasted only a short time, there were many minor skirmishes and Lincoln was pushing Gen. McClellan to do something. In November, an angry Lincoln replaced McClellan with Burnside and on December 13th Burnside's federal forces attacked Fredericksburg. It was a bloody battle but the South repulsed the attack. Although he doesn't mention the battle of Fredericksburg in his letters, Washington's next letters were written from there. He said, "*the yankeys is goin into wintere quarters here,*" which they did, on the banks of the Rappahannock River opposite Fredericksburg. The rains and mud kept the troops on both sides from doing anything.

Also in December, West Virginia became the 35th State in the Union and in January, Lincoln replaced Burnside with General Hooker. Lincoln was very angry with the failure of the Union Army in Virginia.

Washington wrote saying F. M. Nash, a cousin, had died and he said to be sure to apply for the pension.

In February he wrote he might get to go to England to bring back a fleet. He thought it would be a good thing to do. As it turned out, the operation was just a rumor and England did not help the South.

In March they move further South and West to a new camp closer to Richmond. He told Robert to tell Uncle Ned he would apply for the pension if he would send the power of attorney.

In April, General Longstreet's Confederate Forces advanced on Suffolk, Virginia. Washington's next letter dated in April said he was within two miles of Suffolk and he described hearing cannon fire and expecting a fight.

January the 25 1863

Campe at Fredrick burge

Der Father

I take the opportunity drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time I have nothing new to write to you it is though her that the yankeys is goin to wintere quarters her I wod like to come home and See all the Folks and her them taulke a bouthe the war I wod like to be at home to pick a crope for the present year when I git up in camps and See nothing doin like makin a livin it maks me think of home and how things wod seam to me I thinke we will have som hard Fightin her in the Spring I Rote to unke Ned that F. M. Nash was ded he dide at Lynchburg Thar is one hundrid doller or more dew him he can draw hit in Richman S. D. Holmes is well and all the Gwinnett Bouys is well and doin well the helth of the Rerment is good Landrum Ford is come to See us He is well he saise dame the ware he seames well please So nothin more at present

I Remain you Obediant Son

*Thomas W. Nash
To R. B. Nash*

Campe 7 GA Ner Fredrickes burge

February the 7^h 1863

Der Father, I Receved you Letter from T D Hudson and was glad to her from you and the Rest of the connection I am sorry to her the Smaule pox is in that Naborhood we are injoyin good helth her and in good sprits We are lookin for a fight evry day her thare is a cawl for volinteer her to go to England to Bring a Fleet to this Cuntry thay give fare promisis to all that will volinteer I thinke I will go with them an if I do I will come home to See you before I starte I think I wod like the tripe well I wante to see the old country very well I thinke we will hav hard Fitin this springe and I has as soone go to Englin as to stay her you Rote to me about clothin I have plenty of cloth in at this time Hudson and Holmes sends ther Respects to you Thay are both well and doin well the wether is fine now some snow few days ago it is all gone now the Sun Shines warme.

Give my Respects to T W Browne all the Rest of the connecttion tell I am well I wente to see Henry Nash he is not well and he looks bad tell unkle Thomas Nash he must Rite to him he says he has got no Letter from him in Sometime James Glover is well you must rite when you can I Remain you obedian Son untill Deth

*Thomas W. Nash
To R. B. Nash*

Dear Father
Rock Island Ill
Oct the 20, 1864

This will inform you that
I am well at present also Mr. Malheur and
~~Mr. Deale is well we have not received a letter~~
from Com. Mary J Deale we was glad to
hear from home it was dated the 4 of Oct
I have not received a letter from home
I hope you will write to me as soon as you
can I have not received a letter from
you since I sent you in hope that I will hear
from you tell my friends and relatives that I will
be home from home you must write soon
your son
Thomas W. Deale
R. I. Deale

Direct your letter to Barrack etc. etc.

Campe Ner Richmon

March the 16, 1863

*Dear Father I now have the opportunity to Rite to you we are campe
one the River in five Miles of Richmon I cante thinke wher we will go to
nex we may stay her sometime if you will see unkel Ned if he will Send
me the power attorney I will draw F. M. Nash money for him and send it
to him you can tell him how to git the paper Sind and send them to me
and send them as soon as he can it had Beter be see to as soon as posible
tell him the sooner the beter all the Gwinnett Boys is well and doin well
the helth of the Regiment is good at present no more furlow is to be
granted in this armey unless thare wonded or sick So nothing more at
present*

Thomas W. Nash

To R. B. Nash

Cape 7 GA April 16, 1863

Der Father

I Receved you letter a few days ago and was glad to her from you and the Rest of the connection and to her they was well I am now in two miles of -- Suffolk Va The cannon is firing in all Directtion I think we will fight in a few days I was in a Fite with the Cavriley I had drother Fite them one day then to Fite the Musket Boys an hour.

This plase is on the bank of a River two thirds of the towns is Suranded by water and it is fortifide in every direction and we are all wet upe to our neexe all the time all the Gwinnett Boys is well at present and are all in lines and Redy to go when cald one onley Mr. hopkins you will her from us by the newse paper next

We will move in a few minets So nothin moer at persent

You Son

Thomas W. Nash

To R. B. Nash

Chapter Ten

The Start of the Gettysburg Campaign

In May, Washington moved north of Richmond to Rapidan. They were about 6 miles North of Orange Court House. He liked the area because it had good water, something hard to come by.

The May 28th letter has lots of information in it. He doesn't know at the time but Lee is ready to move and attack Pennsylvania. Washington is proud of the condition of the Army and told of a General Review they put on for Hood's fiancée.

There isn't any reference to this particular event as described by Washington in any of the books I read but I did find some information about General John Bell Hood. It seems he was considered quite a catch and was rumored to be engaged to as many as four ladies at one time. One of those ladies was Sally Preston and another was Louise (Louly) Wigfall, daughter of Senator Louis Wigfall of Texas. Hood was considered quite a ladies man, despite the fact that battle wounds caused the loss of his leg and his left arm was limp. In late May there is a reference to a "picnic" he planned so he could entertain Sally "Buck" Preston. This picnic was supposed to be just outside Richmond and was canceled because Lee called Hood to bring his Division north to the Wilderness. Washington referenced Senator Louis Wigfall, from Texas and his daughter Louise or "Louly" as she was affectionately called. Because the two events, the one in the history book and one Washington told about are so close together, they could have been the same thing, but the woman in the book, Sally Preston, is different from Washington's Louise Wigfall, so you will have to draw your own conclusion.

Hoods Division reached their destination on May 31st and by early June, the army was on the move. Lee had decided to invade Pennsylvania and this was the start of the Gettysburg Campaign.

Camp Rapedann May the 28/63

Der Father

I now have the oportunity of Respond to you kind letter I Receved on the 26 instance I was glad to her frome you and the reste of the connection and to her that all was well and doin well I wod like to come home to cutt you wheate for you I thinke the chance is bad at this time We are one Detach Duty to garde the Bridge and Rale-Rode Depot It is a butiful campe and good water her Six miles from Arnge Court House We are Fortify this plase We hade a Genrel Revew on the 27 of this month and Ladys frome all the Saroundin cuntry comme to See us we foute a Sham Batle for them thay Seam to be well pleas with out Fight the Ladys was in the Rear of the Artilry we was all orderd to charg and we don it Mr Wigfoul and his Daugher war oute From Txes to See his intended Son an Law Revew his grand Division Mr. Hoode She sat as Erect on her Horse as thou she was Rape in grape vines I amagin that this is the beginin of a nother hard Fight I thought last winter that we wood not have no more hard fitin here to do I now think diffrent I think this Armye will have the ware to Settle if it is ever Settle it looks imposable to counquer this Armye this Armye is under the bes Dissiplin that it ever was be fore Ever thinge hase to be in it plase at the tape of a Drome or show cuse for being Absons it is as easy to move one Division of the Armye now as it was to move one Regiment when we first came oute Hood Division is on the lefte of the Army Hill is on the Rite Lee in the Senter if the Enemy mak a move on the Rite or lefte it is nowen in five minets it is thirty miles frome here to the Extreeme Rite if not moer I think the next Fight will be harder then evry was be fore We have moer troopes her there was her in last Fight tell Mrs. Osbin that Blue is her He is well at preset he sends his Respects to her and Faney he Ses he will Rite soon to you all I will Say Somthing aboute clothing I think it will be cheaper for me to draw close frome the govemente then to have theme made at home all the Gwinnett Boys is well and is in camps I will Right to you when I can you must do the same wheate looks well her corne is little lower \$30 per Barle Bacon \$1.25 cts corne meale \$8 per cuse Buter \$2 pounne

*Yore Son Thomas Nash
To R. B. Nash*

Chapter Eleven Beyond Gettysburg

The next letter from Washington was written on August 14th, 1863. The Georgia 7th had returned to Fredericksburg. Washington's only mention of the Gettysburg Campaign was, "*I suspose you wod like to her frome Pinsilvanis Hood Division lost a grate meny men in that fight*" The Georgia 7th was held in reserve for most of the fight and didn't come into the battle until the second day. From there they returned to Harpers Ferry and then on down to Fredericksburg

This letter of August 14th reflects the despair at the turn of the tide of war. Washington wrote, "*Thay may go to the devil as far as I car*" and "*if I don't want to stay her I can go to North Carolina and sta there if old Jef Davis dont give me a furlough this winter*" and etc.

From there he was sent to James Island and his letters written in September were still full of melancholy. He needed money and doesn't think they will get paid. He had learned his father, Robert, had joined the Army and it made him unhappy. He stayed at James Island until they shipped the Georgia 7th south to Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

Camp at Fredrickburge

Augt the 14th 1863

Der Father, I agin have the pleasure to Rite to you agin Thare is no fight is expect her in some time all things seems to be still her the Army is campe on the River the Yankey is in the nex county about 15 or 20 miles of us we fer no danger her or a fight now I suspose you wod like to her frome Pinsilvania Hood Division loust a grate meny men in that fight Hood has left us he has bin promoted sens the fight We have herd that all Vixburg Boys is at home. I recon they are all glad you can tell them all that I am well and all the Gwinnett Boys is well and doing well. I wod like to come home very much but I see no chance to come you may tell all my connection and friends that I think I wil come home from if posible I take the war as I can If it last two more years I think thay out to give us a furlough and let us come home If thay dont do it thay may go to the Devil so far as I care I am independent of the war and Jef Davis to if I don't want to stay her I can go to North Carolina and sta there if old Jef Davis dont give me a furlough this winter I think I will mary and setle for life it was said to trust in God and Davis and cape you powter dry. I now think it is trust in God and Lee and his Army and go it wet or dry if this Armeys is furlode and sente home I think the Confedrate States will go up a spoute or on some range of mountain So I will close for the present the mail has arrived one letter for S. D. Holmes statin he was drafted in Gwinnett and one for Mr. Tate statin the Death of his Father I was sorry to her of his death. Tell all my connection and friend howdy for me.

Rite soon

Thomas W. Nash

To Robert B. Nash

if you can send me knife I wod be glad T W Browne said he wod send it to me if you or him can sed hit I wod be glad

Camp On James Island

Sept - the 16 1863

Dear Father I am at Charleston I
I have on the 13 day I am well
at present and all the best of the
Simons boys is well I had brother
be in Va then to be in the War is
the worst that you can do I know
I think we will get a general
charge our Bats are going on that all
the time but little coming down I think
I dont think there will be any fighting
for us to do her it will be done with
longs guns I think. We are now where
they can shell us now if they wish
we will hit to you again when I have
another opportunity if you can I wish
you would send me some money you
can send it by mail it will come
I think this is the next best place
that I ever see in my life it took
and they money to bring me from that
I had I want think we can draw her

I received a letter from sister the
day I left via some ones grace to
her from you all your love to all
them all that I will take
mine in old Va. during the war
there is nothing you were like
to her from I know at the present
So I will close with love
Thomas W. Clark
R. B. Clark

*Camp on James Island
Sept the 16, 1863*

Der Father I am at Charleston I lande on the 13 day I am well at present and all the Rest of the Gwinnett Boys is well. I had Rather be in Va than to be her the water is the worst that you ever See I Recon I think we wil Sta her Several days our Battry are firing on them all the tim but little damag done I think I dont think thar will be any fiting for us to do her it will be don with large gun I think we are now where they can shell us now if they wish. I will Rite to you agin when I have a beter opportunity if you can I wish you wod Send me Some money you can send it By mail it will come I think this is the wirst no place that I ever seed in my life it tuck all my money to Bring me her that I had I don think we can draw her

I Reseved a letter from Sister the day I left Va and was glad to her from you all you can tell them all that I will take mine in old Va during the ware thare is nothing else you wod like to her from I know at the present

So I will close Rite Soon

Thomas W. Nash

To R. B. Nash

Camp on James Island Sept the 20th 1863

Der Father

I agin have the opportunity to write to you I have nothin new to wright I am well at present Mr Garne Morton and Mills has landed Safe and Sound and is well pleas I think. Mr. William Garner had give me fifty dollars I have give him my note for the Same I have Received the artichals that Faney Sente to me Gilbert Browne broate them Safe and I feel vary thankful to her for them I need them vry much it seams More like home to me than anything I have had since the Ware I will Remember her for it and I hope I will be able to helpe her if She is ever in need Mr. Mills Said he Seed you and you was goin home from camps he told me you had joined the Army I drother you haden don it I think you age wod clear you I think you aute to Stay home you are to old to Stand camp life I wod be beter Sadisfid if you was at home. I have see so maney Old Men try it and faile the hard ship is to greate for you to undergo I think I drother you wod Stay at home I dont think you age is cald for yet let others think as they May &c the Gwinnett Boys is all well I will close for the present my Respect to you and Faney and to Rest of my connetion

You son till deth

Thomas W Nash

To R. B. Nash

Because Washington mentions the Vicksburg troops returning home, I am inserting a copy of a letter from J. W. Grisham. He was a cousin of the Nash's and had been sent to Mississippi

Vicksburg, Miss Tuesday 31st March 1863
R. B. Nash

Dear Br. After a long delay I proceed to drop you a few lines which leaves me up but not well. I was sick all day yesterday but am better this morning I have the bowel disease all the time and am very weak. I hope these lines will find you all well and getting on fine with a crop. &c. I have some bad news to write to you. I learned yesterday evening that R. S. Osborn died at the Hospital the next week after he was taken there which was the 10th inst. With Small Pox. We was not allowed to visit him in fact that was the first that I could hear after he left her, he requested me to write to you as son as I could hear from him he had 25 dollars with him but I do not know where it is now. Marion Dutton with 5 others was sent off the same day here in an old field they pass every day none of them has taken it yet. I saw John Dutton yesterday he said that Marion was complaining but was not broke out any they have to stay there a few days longer

Since I set down to write you I recd a letter from home. I was glad to hear from home also a letter for Osborn but the poor fellow is gone. I do simpathize with his wife I was uneasy about helth and am yet as the Doctor says it was the Pox that Osborn had I was not close to him after he was broke out but in speaking distance several times I hear Mcdaniel has it he was with him two or 3 times.

We had one of the dredfulest Storms last Saturday night that ever I witness it blew down nearly all the tents and several trees one man got killed and several cripled and if the Almighte had not protected we should have been destroyed.

I will now say something about the war you that are at home know but little of the ways that things are carried on here. Some Gun Boats tryed to pass here last week our boys gave them a warm reception one boat got by badly damaged and they sunk one and drove the others back the crew that was on the boat that sunk tried to Swim out but the most of them I supose drowned in the attempt.

We have rough fare here we get no flour we get plenty of coarse Corn Meal and some bacon and some pork and Surrup the water is the worst such as you Mules would not drink.

I wish you Br Nash to see Mr. Garner and see if you can get that cow for my people to milk. I have not got my bounty money yet Colonel Gless say I will get it in a short time. I then will send it home to pay for the cow.

I want you to write to me as soon as you can how you are getting on and who you have got to Preach to you at Friendship tell your Br Walker I did not forget to write to him but I have not had the chance but will write to him as soon as I can his Son said he would write he is well and all the Nash crowd as far as I know Lidow(?) Is a buster(?) he is gone to town today I forgot to say we got Joe Browns Uniform yesterday His name rings in Camp to day

I must close do the best you can and encourage my boys all you can and instruct them and write to me as often as you can and I remain

Yours

S W Gresham

There are some interesting facts in this letter from Gresham. The Osborn he speaks of is a brother of Frances Osborn-Nash, Robert's wife. She apparently had several brothers. In one of Washington's letters he mentioned Blue Osborn. He, too, was one of her brothers. Brother Walker was Robert Nash's brother, Walker Nash. Their father was John Walker Nash.

Before using any of the historical events in this book, I have carefully sought at least two different sources. Sometimes using more, but mostly using two very well known and highly recognized historians. They do not always agree on the various facts, but every so often, they have written two different views about the same event. The battle mentioned in Gresham's letter is one of those times.

The battle with the gun boats happened on March 25, 1863. General Grant wanted to capture Vicksburg and thought he could then own the Mississippi River and could stop the supply route the south was using. On this particular day, several gun boats were sent up the River and two nearly reached Vicksburg before being repulsed by the Confederates. These two boats were the Lancaster and the Switzerland. According to one historian, the Lancaster was sunk and the Switzerland floated away and the other historian said the Switzerland was sunk and the Lancaster floated away. Not having any first hand knowledge, it can't be determined which one is correct and unless you were a sailor on the boat, it probably doesn't matter either way.

The best part is being able to pin point the day and circumstances surrounding the battle mentioned in Gresham's letter.



Lucinda Nash Brown
Wife of Tandy William Brown
Sister of William Milton and Thomas Washington Nash
Daughter of Robert Bolt and Frances Nash
Born October 18, 1827 - Died November 26, 1917
Buried in the Friendship Baptist Cemetery
Gwinnett County Georgia
She is referred to in the letters as: Sister Sindy

Chapter Twelve

Letters by Frances and Robert

These next three letters are between Frances and Robert. At some point in the fall of 1863, Robert Nash and Tandy W. Brown have joined the confederate army. Their duty station is Rome Georgia which leads me to believe Robert was with either the 10th or 36th Regiment of Georgia Volunteers.

There isn't any record of the date Tandy joined, but there is, in the National Archives, a reference to him serving in company C, 10th Cavalry, Georgia Volunteers. The first letter is from Frances to Robert and might have been written by Tandy W. Brown, the handwriting and spelling are similar to his and Tandy adds a "P.S." at the end which usually indicates the person writing the letter. Tandy was home because he was either ill or wounded, he only said to tell the boys I will come just as soon as I get able. Washington had jumped off the train as it passed Yellow River and was home for three days. This is the first time Washington has been home since he left in June of 1861 to go to war.

Frances was pleased about the crops, they seem to have been better than expected. Since food was such a precious commodity, they must have seemed rich in comparison to their neighbors.

There is a response from Robert. I don't have a copy of the original so I don't know what goes in the blanks. Sometimes the letters have been folded and the words are obscure, making the writing impossible to translate.

Again, Frances responded, and the hand writing is by a different person, not identified. She wrote that Mr. Lanier had sold Robert's apple brandy, he gave them \$20 a gallon. There were fifteen and one-half gallons, so Frances was paid \$310.

These are the last of the letters from Robert B. Nash and Frances Osborn Nash. They both lived in Yellow River until they died, Robert in 1881 and Frances in 1885. Both are buried in the Friendship Baptist Cemetery, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Yellow River Oct the 11th 1863

Dear husbon

I receivd your letter of the 7^h which gave me satisfaction to here from you and to heare that you was well these lines leavs me and all the conection as well as comon at present I am getting along as well as could be expected the negro girl is doing as well as I could expect & I think she will pleas me verry well Mr Grishams folks has puld down that field of corn and Tandy was here yesterday and hauld up some and George Dutton will com tomorrow and git up the balence it will turn out better than you thought I think we are gitting along with the cotton verry well Tandy is mending Som but Sloly Orscar is about well the rest is all well The box that we sent to Wash went Safe and he got it all right and last Friday Morning Wash cam home and is here now and in as good helth as you ever saw him he will start back tomorrow morning he come without a firlow and cant stay but a short time there was several of the boys Jumpted of of the cars at the same time they will pass by Rome tomorrow I wish that you new it in time So you could go to the trane and see him William Garner let Wash have fifty Dollars I have not Saw Mr Garner cence he com back I will have that attended to as soon as I can I dont think there is any news in this Settlement that wood enterest you I cant tell much about the Election I heard that Pool V Glenn was a head I dont now how the Govners went I suppose that Brown is a head So I will close for the present

I remain your loving wife untill Death

Frances Nash

To R. B. Nash

Deare Father as Francis has made Som mention of me I will not Say much I only want you to tell the Boys that I will com Jest as soon as I git able Give them all my respects and reserve the Same for your Self John Ford Sends his best respects to you Nothing more at presant but remains your Son till death

T. W. Brown

Oct the 14th 1863

Mrs. Francis

Deare wife

yours of 11 has come these lines leave me in common health at this time except cold though better than I was I left I was very glad to heare that my corn turning out better than I thought for I was also very glad to heare that T W Brown is getting well I should of bin mity glad to seen Washington but it was out of my _____ to git to see him as there was a call for 100 men out of _____ Regiment to And I had heard that he was at home and hopeing that he mit come by and see me _____ at _____ the camp but he never came _____ his time would not admit I will close by saying to you to

It possible thare is a prospect of my giting home and see to the sowing of my wheat those favor I want to put of sowing untill I rite you again. We have had too bad raney days heare making the ground vary nasty I will close for the present hoping to heare from you soon againe.

Yours in love

R. B. Nash

Well fanny, I want you to tell Nancy Hassedy for me and tell you mother Hassedy for me I want to come and see you the worst kind to get some hunny and brandy.

Walton Camp

Gwinnett County, Ga

October the 18, 1863

Dear husband I rec your kind letter of the 11th I was glad to hear from you. Thes lines leaves me well and hope when thes lines comes to hand that they may find you well Ive nothing of intrust to rite to you I am geting a long with my work tolerable well This week has bin so wet that I han't gethered our field of corn I am going to gether hit at soon as I can Grissom crop we got thirteen lodes of corn and four hundred bunels of foder.

*Mr. lanier has sold your apple brandy he got twenty dollars a galon thay was fifteen galons and a half he has paid the money over to me three hundred and ten dolars, I taken up that note the Mr. lanier had on gorge dutton gorge said that if hit was not write with you that he wold rite hit when you come home I want you to come home if you can you dont know how glad I wold be to se you come home Agane our salt have not come yet I send my best respects to walton Camp tel him that I will tel cusin Nancy hody (howdy) the first oportunity so I must close for this time hoping that you will be at home soon So I remaine as ever
your affection wife*

Frances Nash to

R. B. Nash

Frances also wrote "*Agane our salt have not come yet.*" Salt was used for food preservation in the years prior to refrigeration. In some books, the confederate soldiers refer to themselves as C.S.A. Not Confederate Soldiers of America but "Corn, Salt and Apples" because that was the main diet of soldiers on the move. No wonder they had the "bowel disease" all the time. Salt was extremely scarce and it was Governor Brown's plan to donate one-half bushel of salt to widows of soldiers and to those who had lost a son in the service. Robert's son, Milton had died the summer before and this made his family eligible for the salt allotment. There was never enough salt to carry out the governor's plan, the salt shortage continued throughout the war and because there is never any other reference to this, we don't know if they ever received the salt ration. Lucinda Nash, mother of Robert B. Nash, had received her salt ration. She lost at least two son's in the war.

There isn't any record of Robert's service in the Georgia Archives and I am told this is not uncommon for men joining late in the war. Often they just went to fill in for someone else. I am inserting a letter written by C. C. Calloway asking for him to come fight for him. There aren't any letters telling whether Robert actually went to fight for his friend, but this was a common practice and may be the reason he was never officially registered as a confederate soldier.

Nov 3d 1863

Camp Mobley near Rome Ga

Mr. R. B. Nash

Dear Brother

according to promise I drop you a few lines to inform you that we are here yet and no prospect of our leaving here as I can see we have drawn cartrage boxes and camp boxes and belts and we have agreed to clean off this camp ground in prefference to going farther from water and cleaning off a new place, we have continual calls for details to perform different duties and their is an order now from head quarters for the pressing of negroes to fortify Rome so I expect that we will remain here. I want you to come here by the 10th of this month if you can and take my place in ranks till I can go home I have received intelligence from home that the rogues have been disterbing my family by braking in and steeling from them and I am verry anxious to go and make some arrangements for the safety of our provisions. I am well and harty Brother Jenkins is as well as usual the company is Generally well the Excitement about Disbanding is purty much subcided their is nothing strange amongst us I will now close by saying that I hope that you will not fail to come I am Dear brother yours in the bonds of tribulation

C. C. Callaway

To R. B. Nash

Frances briefly mentioned the elections. Seems strange with the war going on that there would be elections. The following is a letter from B. A. Blakey soliciting votes for his election as Sheriff. The Headquarters for the 10th Regiment was at Rome, Georgia.

December 16th 1863

Head Quarters 10th Regiment S G

Dear Sir

I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines though nothing Cheering or interesting to communicate the two companys from our county in common health we no but little about the movements of the army the Citizens in & about Rome Seems to be verry uneasy our duty is tolerable heavy at present. Three or four Thousand Cavalry as passed our camps in the last two days going towards Case (?) Springs Ga we no nothing of their destination.

I have through the Solicitations of friends both at home and and in Camp Constented to become a Candidate for the Sheriffs office of our county those in camp with me aso Sattisfyed of my inability to Stand a camp life I think that I am willing to as my duty in every respect Should you feel disposed to favor my election it will be thankfully received and Should an opportunity offer to you in like manner Should you feel disposed to favor me please write to your friends in camps to refference to my election please write and and give me your notions about my election

Your Respectfully B. A. Blakey

Chapter Thirteen

Tandy William Brown

Tandy William Brown is our great grandfather. His children were; Julina, George Malcomb, Darling, Oscar and Albert. George Malcomb Brown is our grandfather.

Tandy apparently took Washington's advice to "join some horse company" and he joined Company C, 10th Cavalry, Georgia Volunteers. He was stationed with the other members of the Georgia 10th Regiment at Rome, Georgia. There are two letters from Tandy. The first is a letter he wrote prior to the Civil War. It was written on December 19, 1861 to the Governor of Georgia regarding his commission as Captain of the 544th Georgia Militia. When we tried to find reference to his service in the Civil War, we only found one in the Archives in Washington, D. C.

"Tandy W. Brown - Co. C - 10th Georgia Cavalry - Pvt to Pvt"

His service in the Georgia Militia is different from his service in the 10th Georgia Cavalry. The State of Georgia was founded as a Military Colony and from its beginning, young men were required to serve in the Militia. Militia districts were created and a Captain headed up each unit. Originally the districts were named for the Captains, but as time went on and the captains changed, it became confusing and so the districts were numbered or given names like Pine Long and Lick Hollow. The 544th Georgia Militia was located in central Gwinnett County.

Georgia Gwinnette County

December the 19th 1861

*To Joseph E Brown Govenor of Said State I have recieved my commission
as Capt of 544th District G. M. of Said County
and O. E. Couch Woodson Daniel and Thomas H. Liddell as First Second
Lutenents and Ensign*

*We have all ben Sworn in accordin to Law and Subscribed the Oath
thereto attached*

Verry respectfully

You obedent Servent

Captin Tanday W. Brown

*To the Executive Department
at Milledgville Ga*

Camp, base Home Co

December the 18th 1863

I and father this morning take the pleasure of writing
you a few lines which I am well at present hoping
these lines will find you all enjoying the same. Myself and
company is very small at this time all you know as our
detachment company sent three to drive beasts to Bragg
Army they carried about 2 thousand the beaver puped
hull last Sunday yesterday morning there was so
sent to Gadsden as carriers to get all the information
they can about the yankees crossing the Tennessee at Whites
burg and coming by the way of Humboldt and via Jefferson
or Padley that news has caused great excitement in
camp so last night at twelve o'clock there was a
false alarm given in camp and of all the freighting
men you ever saw it was here will state the circumstances
and actions of the people as near as I can you
must remember that the Regt was considerably excited at
the news of the yankees crossing the river and our men
being gone down that way so the first thing we saw there
was 10 or 15 men come stirring up on horses riding
the colonel saying the yankees is on us at that the colonel
mounted his horse and come stirring through the lines
saying fall in his by company and march get in to
line of battle as quick as they could so against
this time the guns began to fire up the road some was
shooting the horses and some were stirring up their blankets
and some one thing and some another and such a store came

you never saw and about this time the enemy came starting
through the camp and squealed out then we could fire
them (very much take care of your selves at that they
commenced scattering) I tell you never saw the like before
I tell you the road between here and the spring was full
in two minutes going to ward home and I believe
was not returned yet I have no doubt been where they run
about off I can't say was fast a sleep when the road com-
menced he jumped out of his tent and says what is the matter
and some one said the yankees is on us he turned to get
his saddle and as he came back he stamped his toe and
fell flat and as he rose he said Lord boys we are gone
I don't know whether he got a strike or not till the fire
was over there was more men ready to run than I ever
saw before nor I never saw such a time in my life
before I felt tolerable light my self but I told my
uncle, and will tell you the rest when I see you

The a victors company is ordered to report in I think they
started this morning we suppose that they will go to Florida
to drive Bear nothing run in camp all things well
we have plenty of beef and bread and plenty corn and
a little pork in my march has got the I stamped hope she was
not hurt it but I want you to tell my folks to I think well
and so on as well as could be expected I think I will get a
letter from them in a day or two I want you to write as soon
as you can as you can and would like to hear from them
and after that we will close by
I W. B. Brown
Subscribing myself your true friend
To N. B. Clark

Camp Neare Rome Ga

November the 18th 1863

Deare Father I this morning take the pleasure of riting you a few lines which leavs me well at presant hoping these lines will find you all Enjoying the same blessings our company is verry small at this time all gon home or on datale our company sent three to drive beans to Brags Army they carried about 2 thousand the beans passed heare last Sunday yesterday Morning there was 10 sent to Gadsden as curriors to get all the Enformation they can about the yankies crossing the Tennissee at Whitesburg and coming by the way of Huntsville and will report dayley That news has caused grate Excitement in camp So last night at twelve o clock thare was a fals Alarm given in camp and of all the frighten men you ever saw it was here will State the circumstances and actions of the people as nere as I can you must remember the Regt was considrbel exited at the news of the yankies crossing the river and our men being gon down that way So the first thing we now there was 10 or 15 men com Staving up on horses caling the conel Saying the yankies is on us at that the conel mounted his hors and come Staving through the lines saying fallin lins by company and and get into Batle a quick as they could - so against this time the guns began to fire up the road Som was Sadling there horses and som gathering up there blankets and Som one thing and Som another And Such a Sture round you never saw and about this time the conel cam Staving through the camp and Squaled out Men we cant fite them Every man take care of your Selvs at that they comenced Scatering I tell you I never Saw the like befor I tell you the road between here and the spring wal full in two minutes going towards home and part has not returned yet I have no dout but what they run cleare off Dunlap was fast a Sleep when the row commenced he jumped out of his tent and says what is the matter and Som one said the yankies is on us he turned to get his saddle and as he came back he Stumped his toe and fell flat and as he rose he Ses Lord boyes we are gone I dont know whether he got Strate or not till the fun was over ther was more men reddy to run than I ever Saw before nor I never Saw Such a time in my life before I felt tolerbel Light my self but stood my ground So will tell you the rest when I see you The Newton company is ordered to report in Atlanta they started this morning we suppose that they will go to Florida to drive Beans nothing new in camp all Generly well we have plenty of beef and Bread and plenty coffee but little fodder My mare has got the

*destemper I hope she will not have it bad I want you to tell my folks that
I am well and doing as well as could be Expected I think I will get a letter
from them in a day or two I want you to rite as Soon and as often as you
can as I wood like to heare from home as often as I can So I will close by
Subscribing myself yore Son*

*T W Brown
To R B Nash*

Chapter Fourteen

Tennessee

Washington would be glad he had the opportunity to see his family in October, it was the last opportunity he had until the end of the war. He was home for a brief time because his unit was on their way to Tennessee. They had been sent to help Hood and Longstreet in the Tennessee Campaign. The next letter is written from Lookout Mountain on November 3, 1863. He said, "*I think it will be a hard fite her in a shorte time if we make the attack we will have to charge hevy Brest works if we could flanke the first Range of Mountain I thinke we could care the day.*" He will not have that opportunity. According to the History books, on November 4th, 1863 the Georgia 7th is sent with General Longstreet to defend Knoxville from General Burnside's troops. General Bragg's decision to take those troops from Lookout Mountain seriously weakens the Confederate forces.

Washington wrote that they fought on the road, all the way to Knoxville. By November 17th, 1863, the siege of Knoxville was under way.

November 19th, 1863, Lincoln delivered his now famous Gettysburg Address but the men of the Georgia 7th probably didn't know and cared less, they were up to their necks in battle.

On November 24th, 1863, the Battle of Lookout Mountain began and by the end of that day the South was pushed back to Missionary Ridge.

Early in December, General Longstreet pulled out of Knoxville and sent his troops in a Northeast direction toward Greenville, Tennessee.

Camp on Lookout Mountain

Der Father

Nov the 3th, 1863

I now take the opportunity to informe you that I am well at present I have nothing new to wright to you It tis very sickley her at this tim and Rains very oftin her we are well fortifide at this place I thinke it will be a hard fite her in a shorte time if we make the attack we will have to charge hevvy Brest works if we could flanke the first Range of Mountain I thinke we could care the day it looks hard to haft to charge the mountain in frount of our Armeey you will her from us in a few days I thinke it tis Reportit that Jenril Hill has landed her with his forses We are not Sertin of hit yet Anderson Brigade is on the rite of the Armeey the line is very longe that we have to cap up (keep up) Jenril Buckner is on the Rite of the Armeey Brage is in the senter Whiller in the Rear

The Gwinnett Boys is well at present you Rote to me to continue to write home and you wod git the letter I dont no how to direct you a letter at you Regiment Faney if Father is not at home if you will wright to me how you direct you letter so I can Rite to him in camps

*I Received a letter from him a few days ago he did not wright how to Direct my Letter I have not herd from home Sins I lefte you must Rite soon Sertin and let me her frome home So I will cose for the present
You Obedient Son*

Thomas W. Nash

To R. B. Nash

Camp near Knoxville Nov the 21 1863

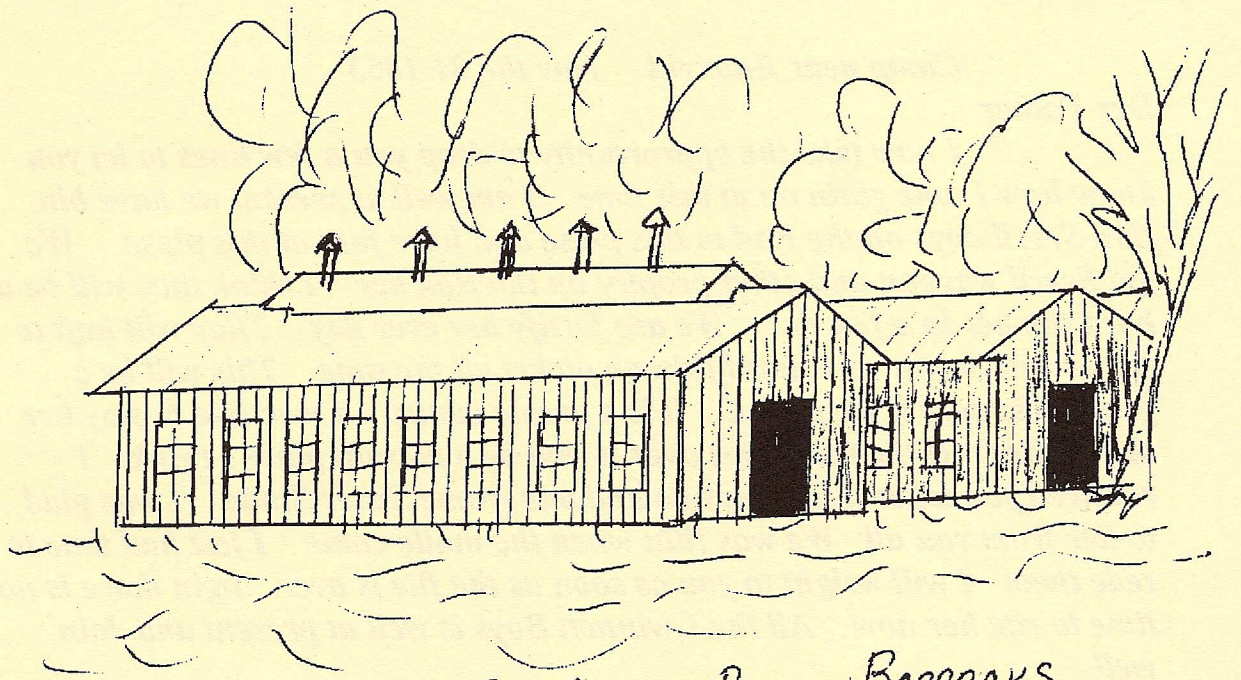
Der Father

I now take the opprortunity to drop you a few lines to let you know how I ame gittin on at this time I am well at present we have bin fitin Sevril days on the Rod to this plase and have fout at this plase We got Sevril waggon and other proptry on the Rod her I think thay will be a hard fite her in a few day We are fortify her ever day Thay will haft to fite or run Sertin it is hard fitin on picket all the time This will be a greate Vicktory if we gain it It is a greate contry I wod like to stay her this winter If the fiting was over it wod be a plesant plase I think I received you letter a few days go and one frome Sister Sinda I was glad to her from you all We was fitin when the maile came I jest had time to rede them I will wright to you as soon as the fite is over agin thare is no time to rite her now All the Gwinnett Boys is well at present and doin well

You obediant son untill deth

Thomas W Nash

R. B. Nash



PEST HOUSE - ROCK ISLAND PRISON BARRACKS

Chapter Fifteen

The Rock Island Prison

The Battle for Knoxville was a long battle lasting many days. In the end, the South had to retreat and try to get back to Virginia. They headed in a Northwest direction, toward Greenville, Kentucky, fighting skirmishes all the way.

On January 5th, 1864 there was a skirmish at Lawrence's Mill in Tennessee and several members of the Georgia 7th Regiment were captured, Thomas Washington Nash was one of the soldiers. They were taken to the Prison at Rock Island, Illinois.

The prison was located on an island in the Mississippi River between Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois. The Prison was located on the north side of the island and was exposed to the cold northwest winds. There were eighty-four 22 x 100 foot buildings arranged in six rows, north to south, with fourteen buildings each row. Each building had a kitchen and 120 prisoners. This location is now the Rock Island Arsenal and is still a Federal Military Installation. There is a museum at the location with artifacts and information about the prison.

The original guard force of the prison was the Fourth Regiment of the Invalid Corp. It was made up of men who were wounded or ill, and no longer fit for combat. The initials I.C. (Invalid Corp) were put on their light blue uniforms. These same initials were stamped on unserviceable equipment and stood for "Inspected and Condemned." After a great deal of teasing from other soldiers, the name of the Corp was changed to Veteran Reserve Corp. In June of 1864, the 37th Regiment Iowa Volunteers supplemented the guards of the prison.

Later the guards were from the 108th Regiment, U S Colored Infantry. It was difficult for the Southern prisoners to accept the black guards and many problems arose as a result.

The first confederate prisoners arrived in December of 1863. There were 468 of them and the number quickly swelled to 5600 when the men captured at the Battle of Lookout Mountain were added. Washington Nash did not fight in the battle of Lookout Mountain because he was sent with Longstreet to defend Knoxville. He was captured on January 5th, 1864. The prison was not prepared for this swell in population. Prison clothing and blankets were depleted, the southern prisoners not used to northern winters faced one of the worst winters on record. The prisoners brought small pox into the prison camps with them and medicine and vaccine was in short supply. A hospital had not been built at this time, the sick remained with the healthy and the diseases spread into an epidemic.

When Washington arrived in January of 1864, things were pretty bleak and he probably took solace because he was with some of his friends and fellow Georgia Volunteers. Life in the prison camps was bleak and boring. The prisoners were not mistreated, but food was sparse and the barracks cold. Later in 1864 a hospital was

built and a pest house established for the contagious diseases. By July, most of the problems plaguing the prison were resolved. The prison was now at its peak of 8600 prisoners. There were, however, during this short 8 month period 1300 confederate prisoners in the cemetery, 2/3 of the total deaths during the life of the prison.

The West was settled by many men from the Northern Prisons. If they would swear allegiance and join the Union Army, "Released by Oath," they were put in the Federal Blue and sent west to fight the Indians. At the first opportunity, many of these southern men deserted and headed further West. Washington, Idaho and Montana were some of the states these men headed for when they deserted the Army. There they could hide out forever and no one could find them. It took a hardy individual to settle the Northwest but these men were survivors.

We have four letters from the period of time when Washington was captured on January 5, 1864 until he is released on May 25, 1865. He would like to hear from home and have a little money. He also tells who is in prison with him and their condition.

Rock Island March the 18th 1864

Der Father

it has bin Som time Sen you hav herd from me I am well at present Mr Mathews and Mr Nox is her thay are well and I think will come home again we are well Treated her I hope it will continure if you See Mr Mathrew Foalks you can tell them he is well ---Henry Lidell has bin Sick he is gitin Beter Will Sturd is ded he dide with the smaull pox thar is no other in her that you now this is the 2 Letter that I have Ritin to you I have not Receved any answer yit you must write to me I think it will come Direct you Letter to Rock Island Ill Thomas W. Nash a prisner of war

You obediant Son

T. W. Nash to R. B. Nash

Rock Island March the 15th 1864
Dear Father

it had for some time long ago had from me
I am well at present Mr. Mathews and Mr. Coy
is here they are well and I think will come
home again we are well treated here I hope
it will continue if you see Mr. Mathews
I hope you can tell them he is well ---
Henry Tidell has been sick he is getting better
well. I trust is dead he died with the small
pox that is no other in here that you know
this is the 2^d letter that I have written to you
I have not received any answer yet you
must write to me ~~and~~ I think it
will come Direct your letter to Rock Island.
I am
Yours affectionately
J. W. Wash & R. B. Wash

Rock Island

Apr the 7th 64

Barrics No 2

*Dear Father this is the thear (third) letter that I have
Ritin to you have not Received any Anser yet I hope this Ma Reach
you in due time I am well at presen Mr. Mathews and Mr. Nox is well
Mr Mathews has Received too Letters from his Wife
I wod like to her frome home as I think it will be Some time befor I can git
thar you can Rite to James, H. Nash at Richmon and he can fared
(forward) the Same to me thare is Letter come to this prisin comisary
he can send me Some Money I am aloud Money her if you will send it to
me I ame good for the Same Canferate (Confederate) Money is worth
nothing her you must do you Ritin on one page that you send to me I
am now pending the Bloom of Life in prisen so I Will close*

Direct you Letter to Rock Island, Ill

Barrack No 2

Thomas W. Nash

prisner of Ware

*Rock Island Ill
August the 1 1864*

Der Father

it has bin some time sens I herd frome you I am well at present I received one Letter frome you I wod Like to her from you agin you mus Rite to me when you can I can her nothing but a noise her I am tired of the prisen I think it is harde that we cant come home all the Gwinnett Boys is doin very well at present Mr Lidell is ded Give my Respects to all my Friend my foze I car nothing a bout if you can her from the Regement Let me no what thay are doin I hope to See the day when I will git home agin as I think it is imposible for you to comply with my wants I will not call on you for any tell my Friend to Rite to me Mr. Vale is well and doin well

Direct you Letter to Barack No. 2

Rock Island Pr Ill.

Thomas W. Nash to R. B. Nash

Dear Father
Rock Island Ill
Oct 20, 1864

I wish to inform you that
I am well at present also Mr. Malheur and
~~the whole of us are well we have not received a letter~~
from Com. Mary I wish we was glad to
hear from home it was dated the 14 of Oct
I have not received a letter from you
I hope you will write to us soon as you
are I am waiting until I hear I have received
~~no news of you~~ I am in hope that I will hear
from you with my friends and relatives that I would
like to hear from home you must write soon
your son
Thomas W. Bush
R. I. Ill.

Direct your letter to Barrack etc. Mo.

Rock Island, Ill

Oct the 30th, 1864

Der Father

this will informe you that I am well at present also Mr Mathews and Mr Vale is well we have jest Read a Letter Frome Cosin Mary I Veale we was glad to Her frome Home it was dated the 4 of Oct I have not Receved a letter in six monts I hope you will Rite to me as soon as you can I have Ritin Severl Letters I have Received no anser I will live in hope that I will here frome you Tell my friends and relitive that I wod like to here frome you must Rite soon

Your Son Thomas W. Nash

To R. B. Nash

Direct your Letter to Barrack No. 40.

This is the last letter from Thomas Washington Nash. He was held in the Rock Island Prison until his release on May 25, 1865. He returned to Yellow River, Georgia and at some point married Martha Duran. They had one child, Lulu Mae. Thomas Washington Nash died on August 27, 1868 and is buried at the Friendship Baptist Cemetery, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

There is one more letter to add. A young cousin named Tandy Young Nash wrote a letter to his uncle. He was the son of Robert's brother, Lewis and had joined the 36th Regiment of the Georgia Volunteers, Army of Tennessee. He would have been about 22 years old and a Lieutenant. His Regiment was in the Northwest corner of Georgia. Close to Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Tennessee. The letter was written on May 3rd, 1864 and he writes of the skirmish at Tunnel Hill. The history books have the date of the skirmish as May 2, 1864, just as Tandy Nash said.

Camp 36th Ga Regiment May the 3 1864

Mr. R. B. Nash

Dear Unkle I will take the gratest of Pleasure in writing you a few lines which may inform you I am well with the very excepting of a boyl I have on my Knee. I hope when these few lines coms to hand that they find you and Family well as for nuse I have non at all times has been very exciting but I beleave every thing has got about strait our troop at Tunnel Hill had a very sharpe fight yesterday. They yanks taking they tunnel from us yesterday - but you may rest ashure that they did not hold the tunnel but a Short time till we maid them get-out-faster than they got in our Division was not in they fight but we was doing all we could to flank them and take them Prisoners but I must confess that they are beter on foot than we are else we wood of got al of them we are expecting a gennerl engagement ever day We are a bout ready for it to com on but so when it coms on you may say we very certen held their ground for we have got som of the very best brest works there are and the very beauty of it is we have got they men that wil stand! I must think that they yanks will get they worst whopin They ever have had all of they troops seams to be in good sperats they all think that if we can whip this fight that they will not try us any more - E G Nash is well and nearly all of our boys is well I will have to close you must write soon as you get this dont do like they rest get this and never answer it - give my respects to all ___friends

Remain Yours as ever

Tandy Y Nash 1st Lt. Direct your leters in this way

Lieut T. Y Nash

36th Regiment Georgia Vols

Dalton Ga. Army of Tenn

It is hard for me to think this book has come to an end. Bob and I started this three years ago and these people have become very real.. We also found information about Bob's family, they fought with the Union Army. His great-great grandfather, Robert Start came to America from England in 1834. He was born in 1803 and had ten children. He joined the New York Volunteers when he was 59 years old and lied on the enlistment, saying that he was 45. It is hard to imagine going to war when it wasn't necessary, but then, they didn't think it was going to last longer than a year and the \$100 bonus probably looked good to a poor farmer with 10 children. Two of Robert's children also joined, William and James Start. We have traveled many miles and visited with many people. We have relatives in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas and I'm sure many other places. They have all been very helpful with information. The Gwinnett County Historical Society has been a treasure of information and allowed us to trace the Brown's, Born's, Nash's and Brook's, all in one place.

Learning to read their writing has been especially interesting. The use of the backward "f" with either an "s" or double ("ff") is "ss" and helped with some confusing words like missing or blessing. They also used an "&c" which meant "and etc." Lincoln used it all the time in his writing. Often they added an "e" to the end of a word; frome, wheate, drume, thinke and lots more. Problem is, after a while it begins to look correct. Their spelling was sometimes pretty bad, they spelled a word just like it sounded, so in order to figure it out, it was necessary to read everything out loud and sound out each word. Time consuming, but it works. They didn't use any punctuation except for a very rare "!" For this reason, I added a couple of spaces where I felt a sentence ended and another one began.

It is my hope you enjoy this bit of family history as much as I have and you will let me know what you think.

Dolfe

INDEX

- 544th Georgia Militia District, 86
2nd Reg. GA Vol, 11
7th Reg. GA Vol, 13, 21, 24, 38, 65
8th Reg. GA Vol, 21, 25
10th Cav, GA Vol, 89
10th Regiment, GA Vol.(headquarters), 84
11th Reg. GA Vol, 52
36th Reg. GA Vol, 104
Alexandria, VA, 21, 24
Anderson, Brigade, 92
Antietam, 59
Atlanta, 89
Army of the Tennessee, 104
Augusta, GA , 11
Bartow, Col, 24
Baxley, Dr., 24, 32, 41, 50, 52
Beauregard, Gen., 21, 24
Blakey, B. A., (Campaign Letter), 84
Blue Ridge Mtn Range, 24
Boonsburg (Boonsboro), WV, 59
Bragg, Gen, 89, 92
Brown, Joseph (Gov. Georgia), 76, 80, 86
Brown, Lucinda (Cindy/Sindy) (Maiden name, Nash), 21, 35, 38, 48, 58, 93
Brown, Oscar, 80
Brown, Tandy W., 24, 38, 41, 48, 58, 59, 65, 72, 80, 81, 86, 89
Browne, Gilbert, 75
Bull Run, 21, 24
Buckner (General), 92
Callaway, C. C., (letter to R. B. Nash), 84
Camp Rapadam (Rappadam), 70
Camp on James Island, 74, 75
Camp Marston Burge (Martinsburg), 58
Camp Mobley, 83
Camp San Jones, 41
Camp, Walton, 81, 82
Camp Winchester, 59, 62
Camp 7th Georgia, 68
Carroll, William, 50
Carroll, Thomas, 50, 52
Case Springs, Georgia, 84
Cedar Creek, 62
Centerville, VA, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 47 (fight), 59
Charleston, WV, 74
Chastain, Col, 11
Christian & Lea Hospital, (Richmond, Virginia) 50, 52
Cleveland, Henry, 11
College Hospital, Lynchburg, VA, 47, 48
Confederate States, 72
Cooper, Mr., 38
Couch, O. E., 1st Lt., 86
Culpepper Court House, VA, 32
Culver, Joseph, 36
Dalton, GA (Camp Ea. GA.), 104
Daniel, Woodson, 86
Davis, Jefferson (President, Confederacy), 72
Decatur, GA, 37, 38
Dilda, Joseph, 37
Dilda, Wm., 50, 52
Downen Gape (Thoroughfare Gap), 59
Dunlap, 89
Dutton, George, 80, 82
Dutton, Merion, 76
Dutton, John, 76
England, (going to bring back a fleet) 65
Fairfax Court House, VA, 24, 32
Florida, 89
Ford, John, 38, 50, 52, 80
Ford, Landrum, 64
Ford, I, (probably Landrum) 58
Fowler, Capt. J. W., 13, 27, 41
Fredrick, MD, 59
Fredricksburg, VA, 64, 65,
Friendship Baptist Church, 76
Gadsen, 89
Garner, William, 75, 80
Garner, Major, 36
Garner, Mr., 35, 77
Gartrell, Col. 7th Reg. GA Vol - 13, 27
Gettysburg, PA, (brief reference as Hood's Pennsylvania) 72
Glenn, Pool V., 80
Gless, Col, 76
Glover, James, 65
Greshem, S. W. (Silas), 76
Grisham, Mr. (Gresham), 80
Grisham (Gresham), 82
Gwinnett County, GA, 13; 21, 37, 38, 41, 50, 52, 64, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 75, 82, 83, 85, 92, 93, 100
Hagerstown, MD, 59
Hardman, Mr., 35
Hassedy, Mother 81
Hassedy, Nancy, (Cousin) 81, 82
Hawkins, Lieut, 37, 38
Hill, Gen., 92
Hollywood Cemetery, 54
Holmes, ?, 65
Holmes, S. D. (Sam), 32, 50, 52, 62, 72

Hood, Gen. John Bell, 70, 72
 Hood's Division, 70
 Hopkins, Mr., 68
 Hopkins, G. W., 32
 Hudson, Mr., 24
 Hudson, Thomas, 52
 Hudson, T. P., 32, 58, 65
 Huntsville, 89
 Jackson, Andrew, 59
 Jenkins, Brother, 83
 Johnson, Gen, 24
 Johnson, William, 38
 Kimbrel, James, 10
 Knox, Mr., 97, 99
 Knoxville, Tennessee, 93
 Lanier, Mr., 82
 Lee, Gen. Robert E., 70, 72
 Leesburg, VA 59
 Lidell, Mr., 100
 Lidell, Henry, 97
 Lidell, Thomas, 86
 Lincoln, President Abraham, 21
 Lookout Mountain, 92
 Lynchburg, VA, 32, 47, 48, 52, 54, 64
 Manassas, VA, 62
 Manassas Junction, 21, 24, 27, 62
 Manassas Junction (first Bull Run), 21
 Martin, Mr., 35, 38
 Martin, J. A., 32
 Martin, Major, 36, 38
 Maryland, 58, 59
 Mason/Dixon Line, 59
 Mathews, Dr., 50, 52
 Mathews, Mr., 97, 99, 104
 McDaniel, 76
 Mills, Mr. 27, 75
 Mills, G. W. , 32, 36, 37
 Mills, H. W., 32, 50
 Mills, I, 62
 Mills, W. W., 37
 Mills, William, 58
 Morton, Garne, 58
 Morton, Mr., 37, 38
 Nash, E. G., 104
 Nash, Elizabeth, (Betsy), 21, 35, 38
 Nash, F. M., 22, 62, 67
 Nash, Frances (Fanny), 21, 35, 38, 41, 52, 53, 54,
 62, 72, 80, 92
 Nash, Frank, (Francis), 42
 Nash, Henry, 65
 Nash, James H., 99
 Nash, Uncle Ned, 64, 67
 Nash, Robert, B., 11, 13, 21, 24, 27, 32, 35, 36, 37,
 38, 41, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 62,
 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 75, 77, 80, 81,
 82, 83, 89, 92, 97, 99, 100, 101, 104
 Nash, T. W., (Thomas Washington) 11, 12, 21, 24,
 27, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41, 47, 48, 52, 54, 58,
 59, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 75, 80,
 82, 83, 97, 99, 100, 101
 Nash, Tandy Y., Lieut, 104
 Nash, Uncle Thomas, 65
 Nash, W. M., (William Milton) 11, 13, 21, 24, 27,
 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54
 Nash, Walker, 77
 New Orleans, LA, 42
 Newton Company, 89
 North Carolina, 72
 Nox, Mr., 97, 99
 Orange Court House, VA, 32, 70
 Osborn, Blue, 62, 70
 Osborn, Mrs., 41, 70
 Osborn, Poke, 62
 Osborn, R.S., 76
 Osborn, Sullivan, 41
 Parner, George, 52
 Pedon, Mr., 24, 41
 Phillips Regiment, 62
 Potomac River, 32
 Rapahanic Fight, 59
 Richardson, James, 21
 Richmond, VA, 13, 27, 32, 41, 50, 52, 53, 54, 62,
 64, 65, 99
 Rock Island, Illinois, 97, 99, 100, 101
 Rome, GA, Camp Mobley, 92
 Rome, GA, 80, 81, 84, 89
 Salt, 82
 Shamblee, J. W., 59
 Shamblee, Nicholas, 24, 50, 52
 Shamblee, W. N., 32, 37
 Shanandoah, VA, 24
 Sharpsburg, MD (Antietam), 59
 Smith, Dr. D. B., 47, 48
 Stanton, VA, 62
 Stokes, D. P., 32, 37
 Strausburg Rail Road, 24
 Sturd, (Stewart/Stuart) Will, 97
 Suffock, VA, 68
 Tate, Mr., 72
 Tennessee River, 89
 Texas, 70
 Thoroughfare Gap (Downen Gape) 59
 Vale, Mr. (Veal), 100
 Veal, Mary I, 101

Vicksburg, MS, 76
 Vicksburg Boys, 72
 Victoria, Miss (Queen of England), 41
 Virginia, 41, 59, 74
 Walker, Br., 77
 Washington, D.C., 21, 32
 Western States, 41
 Wheeler, Gen, 92
 Whitesburg, Tennessee, 89
 Wigfoul, (Wigfall) Mr., 70
 Winchester, VA, 21, 58, 59
 Yankees, 38, 41, 72, 82, 104
 Yellow River, GA 24, 27, 32, 37, 50, 62, 80

GLOSSARY

Favor	letter or communication
bums	Cannon shot
doble	double
old Lincoln	President Abraham Lincoln
drawed	drawn
saluted	confronted
flank	sides of the lines of troops
routed	cleared out
janes	type of clothing --Jeans
provision	food, medical supplies & etc
connection	family members
quick tramp	fast march
cannonading	firing of cannons
tatoo	Bugle Call
oblique	at an angle
muskets	term used for rifles
voly	volley
skirmish	small fight
worsted	type of fabric
rations	food
C.H.	Court House
mend	getting well
convey	send
picet	picket
awrdare	order
landed	arrive
hwody	hello
cooier	courier
&c	and etc.
humbug	a lie
Miss Victoria	England
long toms	Heavy artillery
cobed/cobedy	college hospital
reckons	guess
hosepital	hospital
horsepittal	hospital
dropsy	heart problems
the fever	gangrene