

In Defense Of the Homeland



Israel, Noah, & Simeon
in the
Civil War

Version 3.0

*Compiled by
Miller Taylor*

Introduction

It was about three years ago that I first learned that my great-grandfather's name was Robert Taylor and that he lived in Columbia County, Florida. Working with my wife and my cousin Pat Blalock, we then learned of Robert's siblings and parents and of their moves and travels. I became very interested in the siblings and their interactions with each other. We have found quite a bit about them, and now have met living descendants of most of them..

I had at first discovered that his brothers Israel and Noah were involved in the Civil War. A Florida cousin, Mary Harrison, provided me with information on some of the others. I then obtained information on Simeon and his service. Since Israel Taylor, Noah Taylor, and their brother-in-law Simeon Hawkins were close and were in the same regiment, I decided to do a single story about the three.

This is not the Taylor family history. I will write that at a later time and it will be much more comprehensive. This is the story of the Civil War experiences of three men who were members of the Taylor clan. Others of the Taylors had similar experiences. When I put together the full Taylor history, the involvement of all the Taylors will be included; and the time period will cover two or more centuries, rather than just the five years of the Civil War.

I have used many sources to obtain accurate information on the Taylor family, including censuses, letters, property records, estate records, and almost every other imaginable source. For the Civil War information I utilized service records from the National Archives, the regimental history, and other records. I have added information from several Civil War history books to provide more detail of their involvement in the war. I am certain that future research will yield more details. I wanted, however, to let their descendants enjoy the information now. Since this is based on records and history, rather than family stories, it is a pretty accurate account of what happened. Corrections, however, are welcome. I can be reached at **email: miller@wwtaylor.org.**

My motivations in compiling this history are three:

1. I am acquainted with several descendants of the three men. It will be something that will almost certainly provide knowledge and pleasure to them.
2. During my research, I have come to know these men personally, and would like to tell about them. I don't want them forgotten.
3. The information I have has been built from hundreds of little pieces gathered over several states from hundreds of sources. Each piece can only be understood when combined with the others. Now that it has been assembled, the history needs to be preserved.

I am not, however, a historian, and this is not a Civil War history. If I were a historian and this were a Civil War history, this paper would have certainly been more thorough. It is simply the story of what happened to three men, compiled so their descendants can understand and enjoy learning about their Civil War experiences.

Miller Taylor
April 1, 1995

In Defense of the Homeland (Israel, Noah, and Simeon in the Civil War)

In March of 1862 in Dyer County in the western part of Tennessee, farmers are beginning the annual cycle by preparing the fields for planting crops. Three of the farmers are not working in the fields because they are about to leave their families to risk life and fortune to participate in what they consider a noble cause. The men are frightened at the prospects, but they don't hesitate in joining the struggle. It is too important. What brought these farmers to these circumstances, and what will happen to them? The answer to those questions is a dramatic story that covers seven states and is full of adventure, horror, and tragedy.

The Beginnings:

Around the year 1800, William W. Taylor came from Armagh in Northern Ireland and ended up in Newberry Co., South Carolina. He probably came as a child with his father or uncle, but that has not yet been determined. In 1823 he was naturalized as a U. S. Citizen.

He married Elizabeth Dominick, the daughter of a German immigrant Henry Dominick and settled into farming and rearing a family. His daughter's marriage to an Irishman apparently did not sit well with Henry Dominick. The Germans in that section of Newberry Co. considered the Irish to be lazy drunkards. Several events in later years indicate that Henry remained resentful of William.

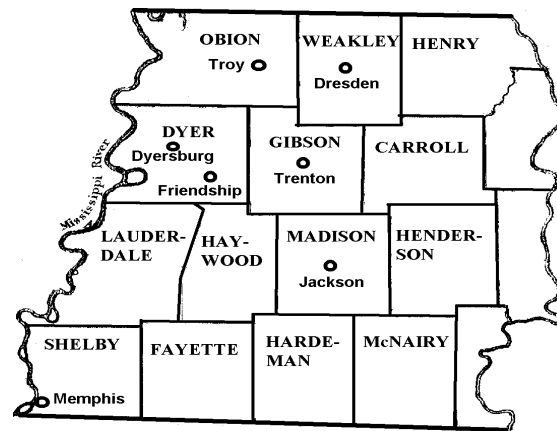
Life was prosperous for William, and he had eight children:

1. Margaret Anna (Ann) TAYLOR — born about 1820
2. Robert TAYLOR - Born about 1822
3. Isabella TAYLOR - born about 1824
4. George W. TAYLOR - born 19 June 1825
5. Lavinia Amanda (Viney) TAYLOR - born about 1826
6. James A. TAYLOR - born 23 February 1827
7. Noah TAYLOR - born 10 June 1831
8. Israel TAYLOR - born about 1835

Elizabeth died in about 1835, George died in 1847, and in 1848 William died. William had accumulated a good deal of property, and his estate included some slaves. The estate was divided among his children, but later legal disputes arose among them. One dispute involved the status of Noah and Israel, resulting in Isabella and her husband being appointed guardian of Noah, who was seventeen at the time. Soon the family would be physically separated for generations.

The Family Separated:

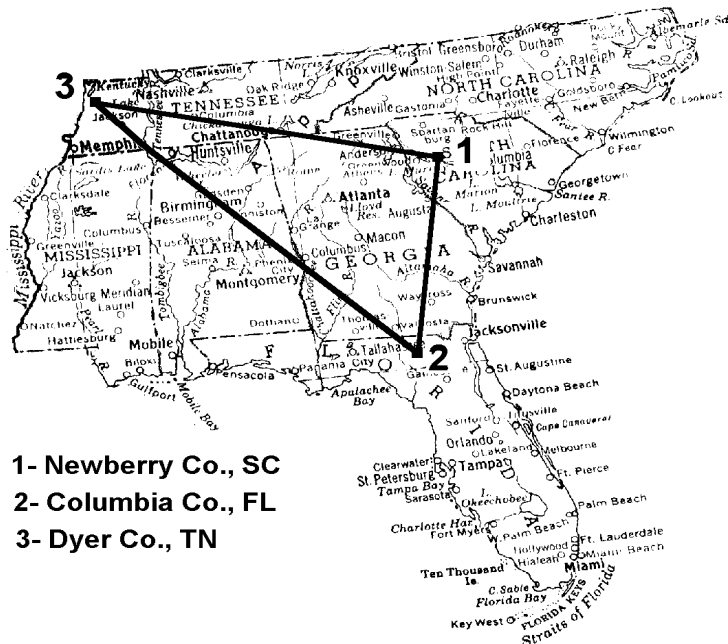
Isabella was married to Simeon (pronounced Simon) Hawkins, son of the minister Peter Watson Hawkins. When Peter took his large family to Dyer County in the western part of Tennessee in the 1840's, Simeon and Isabella followed later. Since Noah was their



West Tennessee in 1850 (Counties are different today)

ward, he also traveled to Tennessee. Later Israel also moved there to join them. They settled near the small town of Friendship, which was then in Dyer County.

In about 1852, Robert, James, and Viney moved to Columbia County, Florida. They moved due to a religious split in the churches in Newberry and for the availability of land in Florida. This left only Ann and George's survivors in Newberry. The family was now located in three clusters: South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida. This formed a sort of Taylor Triangle. The Taylors made a surprising number of trips along this triangle in the 19th century.



The Taylor Triangle

Close-knit:

Israel, Noah, and Simeon became very close. Israel and Noah were brothers and Simeon was their brother-in-law. He was also like a big brother to them. They were, however, to get even closer. When Noah came to Dyer County, he moved in with Peter Watson Hawkins, Simeon's father and worked on his farm. While living there he fell in love with and married Simeon's sister Nancy. When Israel moved to the area, he fell in love and married another of Simeon's sisters, Frances. They were brothers-in-law to each other in three ways.

Throughout the next few years there is ample evidence of their closeness. They were involved in each other's legal transactions. Wherever one would be found, you would usually find the other two. Even when Noah spent some time in Northern Mississippi during the 1850's, they were in close contact. There are records of property transfers involving all three on the same property transfer during this period.

Uneasy peace:

As the 1860's began, life began to change for the South. Throughout the early part of the century, the conflict between the North and the South over states' rights, political power, and slavery had been growing. The election of Lincoln and other political events brought the matters to a head. In response, the states of the South began to secede from the Union and form the Confederate States of America. Little else was being discussed at the time. Since this was West Tennessee, on the western edge of the country, events did not seem likely to have a direct impact.

War!

At 4:30 AM on April 12, 1861, the Confederate batteries fired on Ft. Sumter in Charleston harbor. Although it was 600 miles away, the event would have a profound impact on the lives of the Dyer County people. Although eastern Tennessee had many northern sympathizers, the western portion of the state was solid for the South. On June 24, 1861, Isham G. Harris, the governor of Tennessee, issued a proclamation declaring the secession from the Union and the link with the Confederacy. The brothers-in-law were now in the Confederate States of America. The other Taylors were already in the CSA when South Carolina and Florida left the union in 1860 and 1861.

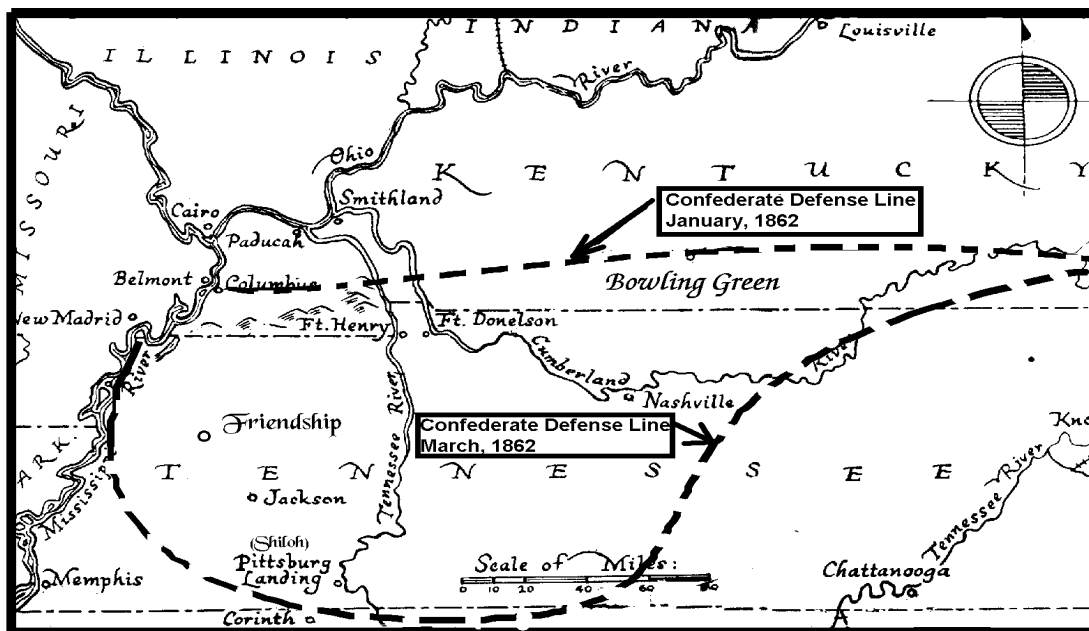
Certainly, as the remainder of this story will tell, all the Taylors were solidly confederate. Four brothers and three sisters of the original eight children were alive at the time of the Civil War. All four brothers fought for the Confederacy, two of the sisters' husbands fought, and the remaining sister and some of the brothers had sons in the Confederate Army. Three of the family members died during their service.



Albert Sydney Johnston

Tennessee threatened:

Kentucky had been officially neutral and both sides had respected the neutrality. In late 1861, however, both armies took portions of Kentucky and defensive lines were drawn. General Albert Sydney



The Situation in Tennessee in Early 1862



Ulysses S. Grant

Johnston, the Confederate commander for the region, had been brought from California to lead the defense of Tennessee. He established his headquarters at the center of his defense line in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Johnston was faced by General Ulysses S. Grant and a much larger army on the northern side.

In December of 1861, to help counter the threat from the North, the Confederate Army began raising a regiment from Northwest Tennessee. The Confederate Government formed the 47th Tennessee Infantry, and established Camp Trenton at Trenton, Tennessee, as the base for the regiment. The threat was growing, and now President Jefferson Davis was aware of the danger. In addition to supplying some additional men, he sent General

Beauregard, one of his most famous commanders, from Virginia to provide additional support for Johnston.

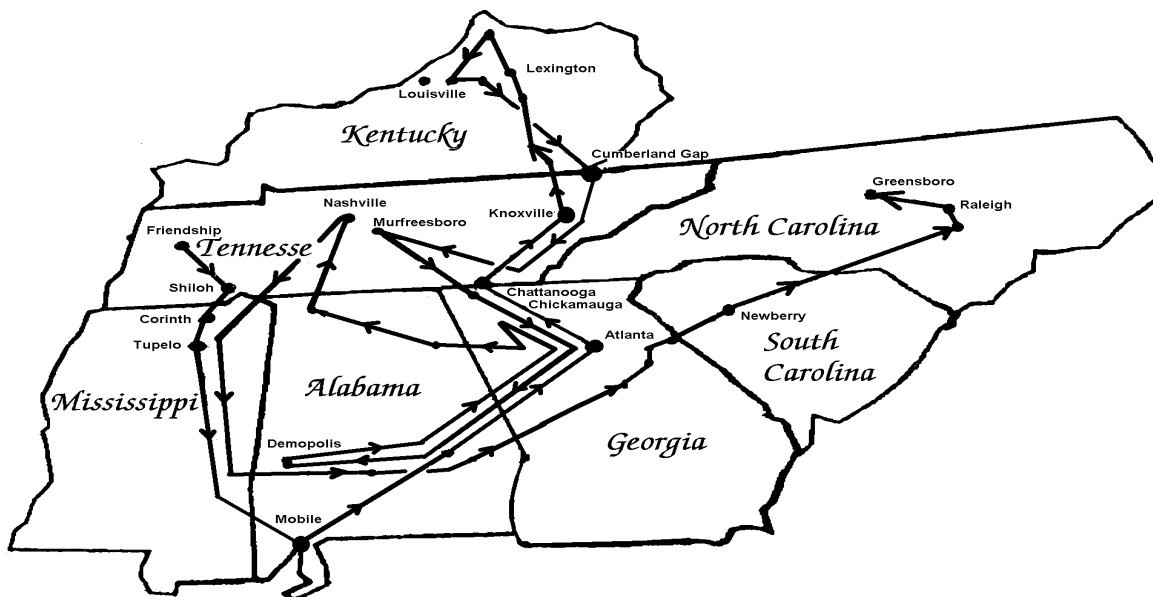
The Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers were considered critical to the defense of the South in this western region. The North obtained a great advantage when Grant was able to capture the towns at the mouths of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers where they flowed into the Ohio River at Paducah and Smithland. He already held the vital juncture of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers at Cairo, Illinois. Grant used this control to successfully attack Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers by travelling up the rivers. Johnston withdrew to Nashville, and realizing his defenses were weak, withdrew and set up his new headquarters in Corinth, Mississippi.



Pierre G. T. Beauregard

March 1862 - Joining the cause:

Dyer County and the rest of Northwest Tennessee were now open to immediate occupation by the North at any time. The Union was not threatening their country; it was threatening their county and their homes, quite a different matter. There was a call for 30,000 volunteers from Tennessee, and they received mass enlistments into the Army. On Monday, March 10, 1862, Simeon traveled to nearby Trenton to join the Army. It is not surprising that eight days later, March 18, Israel and Noah went to Trenton and joined Company B of the 47th, under Captain William Gay, as their brother-in-law had done. Noah, if not the others, had enlisted before in the previous December. Johnston had to revoke the enlistments because the Confederate Secretary of War told him to save money by revoking previous enlistments and enlisting troops for only 12 months. Israel, Noah, and Simeon all now had 12-month enlistments as Privates. The long journey had begun.



**Their Travels During the War
(Simplified for Clarity)**

They were now part of the Army of Tennessee, one of the two great armies of the Confederacy. In the East, the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by Robert E. Lee, fought most of the major battles. In the West, it was the Army of Tennessee that fought most of the major battles. The names of both armies are deceptive. The Army of Northern Virginia was composed of regiments from throughout the Southeast, while the Army of Tennessee had units from all over the western part of the Confederacy. Units from Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, and Florida fought along with Tennesseans.

Israel, Noah, and Simeon had become Confederate soldiers—a difficult existence. The Confederate soldier had a hard life and was always fighting at a disadvantage. The North had a large population and a strong industrial base; but the South, with its small, rural population and its agricultural economy, could never match the North in weapons or in personnel. Due to these disadvantages, the Confederate soldiers fought under conditions of deprivation, often extreme. They were almost always outnumbered, they often did not have shoes, some fought with ancient muskets, clothing was ragged, and food was meager and frequently unavailable. The level of success they had can only be attributed to their own personal toughness and spirit. This was reflected in a statement by a Union Loyalist when Lee’s army invaded Maryland: “They were the dirtiest men I ever saw, a most ragged, lean, and hungry set of wolves. Yet there was a dash about them that the Northern men lacked.” General Buell of the Union Army, after the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, explained why the terrain over which the Confederates were going was too rough for him to follow by saying, “The spirit of the rebellion enforces a subordination and patient submission to privation and want which public sentiment renders absolutely impossible among our troops.”



Don Carlos Buell

The shortage of equipment was evident with the soldiers in Tennessee. General Johnston requisitioned a large quantity of gunflints. That seems absurd in 1862, but this was due to a great number of his soldiers still using flintlock muskets, which were hopelessly outdated. They were extremely slow to reload and they were worthless in rainy weather. Governor Harris put out an appeal for rifles, shotguns, and pistols to the residents, but few arms were gained.

6 April 1862 - Shiloh!

Now that he controlled the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, Grant pushed to use this advantage to get to Johnston at Corinth. General Halleck, his superior, ordered him not to attack until an overwhelming

force was formed. He ordered Grant to go down the Tennessee River and set up camp at a point near Corinth. He would wait there to be joined later by the forces under General Buell and would then go to Corinth and hit Johnston.



Henry W. Halleck

Sherman, Grant’s most trusted General, suggested a place he had seen on a previous reconnaissance trip at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee side of the border. Grant agreed, and they moved their armies there. Grant set up his



William T. Sherman

headquarters nine miles away in Savannah. Sherman set up his headquarters near Pittsburg Landing, next to a Methodist log church called Shiloh Meeting House, setting the stage for that name to become famous even though it wasn't even on the map.

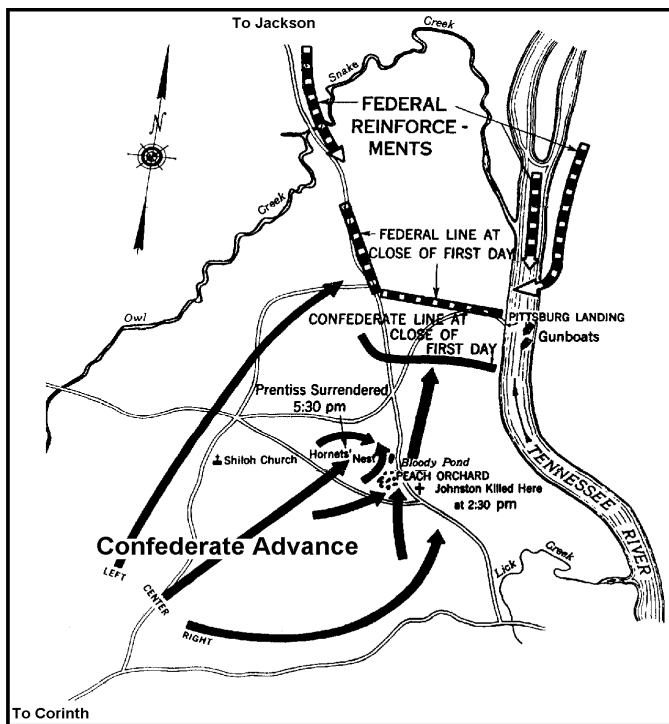
Grant was entirely focused on attacking Corinth and totally discounted the idea that the Confederates might attack him. He was also extremely arrogant about the capabilities of his army and had yet to learn that the Confederate Army was a formidable fighting force. As a result, very few precautions were taken. Only the simplest defenses were arranged, and units were placed according to when they arrived, rather than for tactical purposes.

Johnston had 40,000 men, which was roughly the same number as Grant commanded; and he also knew that when Buell arrived with another 40,000, he would be facing an army twice the size of his. He felt that it was imperative that he attack first. On April 2, Johnston received word that Buell would link with Grant in a matter of days. Johnston worked quickly with his second in command, Beauregard, to set up battle plans. They would move out on April 3, and attack on Friday, April 4.

At Camp Trenton, Israel, Noah, and Simeon were waiting for something to happen. The 47th was stationed at Camp Trenton still unattached to any brigade. They didn't have to wait long. Colonel Hill received orders to move his troops to Pittsburg Landing as rapidly as possible. The men were green, and had little training or discipline. The move south was done with the military precision you would expect from a group of independent-minded, untrained recruits.

Due to delays, bad decisions, confusion, and the weather, the Confederate Army was not in position to fight until late on Saturday, April 5, a significant and fateful delay. Even though the green Confederate troops lacked the discipline to move quietly and hide their presence, Grant was still unaware that an army

the size of his was moving in for an attack. A good deal of evidence surfaced, but he ignored it and rebuked anyone who suggested that a major army movement was underway. On Saturday night, 40,000 Confederates camped next to his positions, and Grant was totally oblivious.



Battle of Shiloh

At dawn on Sunday, April 6, the battle began when the Confederate Army attacked the Union lines during breakfast. They had taken the Yankees totally by surprise, and the Confederates were astounded that their moves had remained a secret. The Federal units offered some resistance, but quickly went into retreat. The battle went extremely well for them until General Johnston was killed by a stray round. General Beauregard took command and kept the death of Johnston a secret. Although there was, at times, some very stiff resistance from the Union troops, the Confederates pushed back Grant's forces until it was nearly dark and

victory was almost certain. As darkness came, Beauregard ordered the fighting to stop for the night, expecting to finish off the desperate Federals early on Monday morning. The Confederates would have had difficulty continuing anyway. Many had been fighting all day and hadn't eaten since the day before. They were exhausted and left with little ammunition.

Late Sunday afternoon the 47th neared Shiloh. The sky was dark, and lightning was flashing. After the fighting for the day had ceased, the 47th arrived at the battlefield, tired from the long march. Because of the shortage of equipment and the sudden move to Shiloh, they arrived unarmed! Fortunately, the Confederates controlled the field of battle that evening. Israel, Noah, and Simeon were able to wander among the dead and find the rifles and ammunition they needed, using lightning flashes to more easily locate the bodies. As the rain began, they laid down in the field with the bodies, and got a needed night's rest.

Getting that rest may have been nearly impossible. Israel, Noah, and Simeon were certainly both excited and frightened at what lay ahead of them. The cold April rain made getting comfortable impossible. Even more horrible was the fact that many of the bodies on the field weren't dead. Many were wounded and had not been cared for, since the Army at this point had not organized how they would handle the injured. Throughout the night the groans and cries of the dying filled the air. To add one final horror, by the flash of the lightning, hogs could be seen feasting on the bodies. Would this be them after the battle tomorrow?

During the night, the army under General Buell arrived by riverboat and land, reinforcing Grant's Army. This dramatically changed the balance the next day. The Confederates were unaware of the reinforcement and were surprised at the Union strength. The results at this point were not in doubt. The Federals had twice as many men, and half of those were fresh, rested troops.

At dawn the battle renewed. The Confederates were surprised and unprepared because they had assumed that the Federals would have withdrawn over the river during the night, and they had heard that Buell's forces would not arrive in time. Step by step, the Federals finally won back the ground they had lost on the previous day, pushing the Confederates back to the road to Corinth. Israel, Noah, and Simeon were now in battle for the first time, and it was unpleasant. The West Tennessee Whig, of Jackson, Tennessee, dated April 25, 1862, published a list of casualties from the 47th Regiment in the Battle of Shiloh totaling five killed, 61 wounded, and one missing. The numbers do not adequately tell the story of a unit in the horror of its first experience in battle.

After being pushed back, the Confederate Army began its retreat to Corinth. As soon as they were on the Corinth road, however, they were so exhausted they settled in for the night. They moved again on Tuesday, April 8. General Sherman made a show of trying to pursue, but he quit quickly when confronted with the cavalry of the daring Nathan Bedford Forrest. In addition, Sherman's men were exhausted from two days of fierce battle. Now Israel, Noah, and Simeon had to hike the 22 miles to Corinth - 22 miles of misery. They were already in low spirits from losing the battle, but now they had to endure unpleasant conditions. They slogged along in a cold rain with mud and deep water along the way. To make matters worse, as they trudged along, sleet began to fall making the results of their first taste of battle a complete misery.



Nathan Bedford Forrest

April 1862 - Corinth, Mississippi:

Now that the defensive line was drawn at Corinth, Mississippi, the Confederate Army at Corinth began to organize and prepare defenses for the expected attack from the



Leonidas Polk

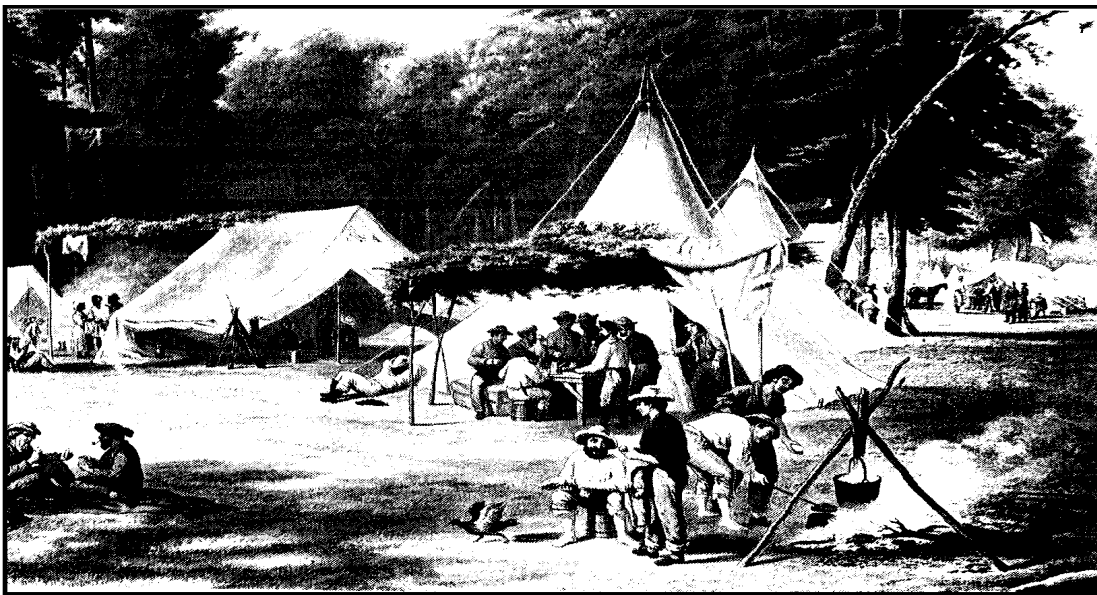
Federals. Corinth was a strategic location that gave the army rail access to Chattanooga by the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, and loss of the railroad would mean the loss of the lifeline to Chattanooga and Atlanta. While there, the 12th, 13th, 22nd, and 47th Tennessee Infantry Regiments were assigned as a brigade to be a part of General Benjamin F. Cheatham's Division in General Leonidas Polk's Corps. These four regiments



Benjamin F. Cheatham

remained together for the rest of the war; first led by Preston Smith and later by Brigadier General Alfred J. Vaughn.

The camp was a wonder to these Southern farm boys. Beauregard now had 53,000 men to feed, house, train, and manage, producing a compact, crowded, busy, noisy city. One of Israel, Noah, and Simeon's fellow soldiers described it to his wife as like New York, but with mud instead of pavement. Most of the



The Confederate Army at Corinth

men were farmers who had never been in a group larger than a few individuals. Now they were in groups of tens of thousands.

Soon the wonder wore off. Corinth was a poor place for a large army camp. Food was scarce and the water supplies were inadequate and soon became polluted. As a result, disease became rampant in the

camp. As many as 18,000 became ill from typhoid fever, dysentery, measles, and a variety of other diseases. Many of the farmers, who were for the first time in close quarters with many other men, lacked immunity and became ill. Almost everyone was infested with body lice, and rats were everywhere. When you combine this with the fact that camp life was tiring, dirty, and grindingly monotonous, it is not surprising that there was a high rate of desertion. In a sample week at the end of May, six soldiers in the 47th deserted.

All this time, the Union troops were coming. General Halleck was now taking personal charge of his armies. He was unhappy with Grant's performance at Shiloh and put him in a staff position. He was determined to take Corinth, but things had changed. Prior to Shiloh he thought that the Confederates would be easy to deal with. He had now decided they were a force to be reckoned with and was proceeding with caution. He brought in troops from other areas until his army now swelled to 120,000 men to confront 53,000 Confederates. He started out on April 29 from Pittsburg Landing, heading for Corinth. By the end of May, his army had travelled only 15 very cautious miles and was near Corinth.

As the army approached, Beauregard, consulting with his officers, decided that Corinth, in spite of its strategic value, could not be effectively defended against such a large army. The decision was made to retreat along the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, 52 miles south, and set up a new encampment at Tupelo. Tupelo was an excellent site for a camp, and it was more defensible by being deeper in the Southern territory

Beauregard managed a masterpiece of evacuation. On Thursday, May 29, he moved all his men and supplies to Tupelo without tipping his hand to Halleck. To start the deception, he told the men they were going to advance rather than retreat. He sent men to the Federal lines to pretend to be deserters and tell the commanders that the Confederate Army was going to attack. He built fake campfires, "Quaker" cannons made from wood, and men made of straw to serve as fake sentries. He had a band move from place to place and play, giving the impression of many bands. He had a train go back and forth all evening, and when it got back to camp each time the men would cheer as if reinforcements were arriving.

The evacuation began under cover of darkness at 11:00 p. m. Israel, Noah, and Simeon did not move out until about 60 percent of the people had already gone, but all the men were on their way south by 1:00 a. m. When Halleck's troops attacked at daylight, they were startled at receiving little resistance. As they moved cautiously into town they were astounded. Corinth was a ghost town with only two families still there. Fifty-three thousand men had vanished, equipment was gone, and anything that might be useful to the Union was in flames. Beauregard stopped and formed defensive lines a few times in case of attack, but none came. They arrived in Tupelo on June 9.

June 1862 - Tupelo:

Tupelo was a better location for an army camp; it was not to be a better place for Israel, Noah, and Simeon. While the army was at Tupelo, Jefferson Davis replaced Beauregard with General Braxton Bragg because Davis was angry that Beauregard had allowed Halleck to take Corinth without a fight, and now Bragg had the responsibility to hold off Halleck. Bragg was not liked by his men. He was an unpleasant disciplinarian who called the army at Tupelo "the mob we have miscalled soldiers." He was determined to whip them into shape and to crush their spirit, which he did in a merciless manner. The troops become more like a disciplined army, but



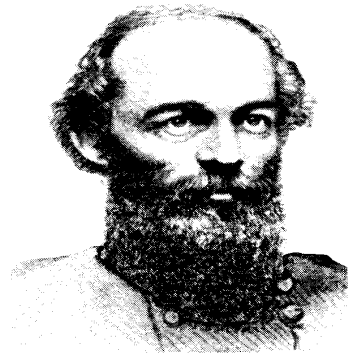
Braxton Bragg

at a high price. When deserters were returned they were usually shot by a firing squad. This was done publicly with the condemned often forced to ride to the execution on his own coffin and watch his grave being dug. Beatings and public humiliation were given out for minor offenses.

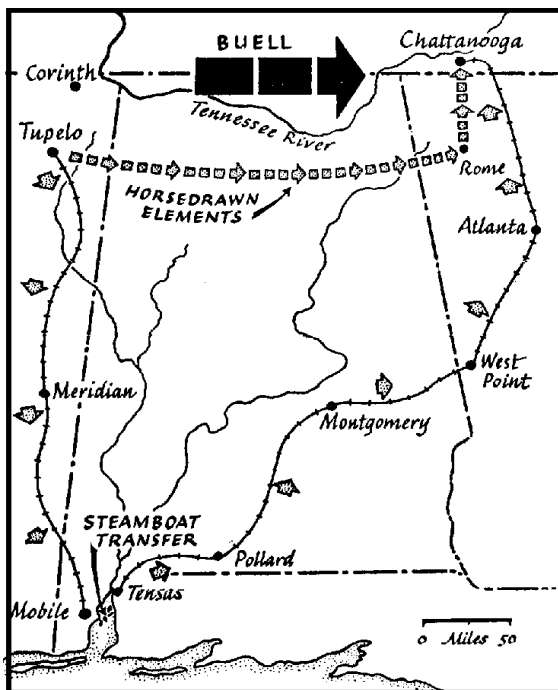
To make matters worse for our three men, while the rest of the army enjoyed better health at Tupelo, the sickness in the 47th increased. Israel appears to have been one of the sick men at the camp. Disease was the great killer of the Civil War to a degree that twice as many men died of illness during the Civil War than died of battle wounds. Noah was probably especially unhappy there since his wife Nancy was pregnant and was expecting soon. His daughter Mary Price Taylor was born while Noah was camped at Tupelo, but he probably did not learn of the birth until much later.

July 1862 - A Bold Move:

At Corinth, General Halleck did not want to push deeper into Mississippi. He began breaking up the massive army and sending groups to other areas to fight. In July, he sent General Don Carlos Buell east with 55,000 men to capture Chattanooga. Corinth was on the Memphis and Charleston line and the Federals were now gaining more control of points on the line to use it to threaten Chattanooga. General Kirby Smith, stationed in Knoxville, who was responsible for the defense of Chattanooga with only a few thousand men, put out an urgent plea for more troops. The loss of Chattanooga at this time would be devastating for the Confederacy. Fortunately, Buell was delayed by lack of supplies, damaged bridges, and by raids by the Confederate Calvary. Buell, however, was getting far too close, and Smith renewed his call for more troops.



Kirby Smith



Tupelo to Chattanooga

Bragg finally agreed to send the bulk of his army to reinforce Smith. It was a seemingly impossible task to move 35,000 troops there in time to save Chattanooga because Chattanooga was 200 miles north-east, and the Union controlled the railroad line and most of the roads leading there. Bragg devised a daring plan to get there first. To get northeast, he would go south! He first sent 5,000 men with all the wagon trains, cavalry, and artillery on a southerly route to Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Rome, Georgia, and then to Chattanooga, going around Federal held territory. To move the other 30,000 men in a hurry, Bragg sent them on an 800 mile railroad journey to get to Chattanooga by way of Mobile, Alabama! The trip took them through Meridian, Mississippi; Mobile and Montgomery, Alabama; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Bragg left Tupelo with the advance elements on Friday, July 25. He left sufficient forces to defend Tupelo from attack, and to hide the absence of the large army, he had the cavalry harass the enemy. Israel, Noah, and Simeon had quite a journey on this

trip, travelling over six different railroads of varying gauges. In Mobile, they were ferried across the bay to pick up a train on the other side, and they even traveled by steamboat near Montgomery. When they would change between trains, it would be under the watchful eyes of guards stationed to prevent straying, particularly to the brothels. At stations along the way, the Commissary personnel would come on board to resupply the troops. The first troops arrived in Chattanooga on July 29, in time to defend the city.

August 1862 - Kentucky:

Kirby Smith came down from his headquarters in Knoxville to plan operations with Bragg. They agreed to execute a plan Smith had been thinking about for a long time, the invasion of Kentucky. A coordinated plan was made, and Bragg loaned to Smith the divisions of General Cleburne's and Preston Smith, which contained the 47th, to aid in his part of the invasion. The plan was for Bragg and Smith to take separate routes into Kentucky, Bragg from Chattanooga and Smith from Knoxville, with a planned link-up later. In addition, John Hunt Morgan's cavalry would cause diversions and generally harass the Federals.

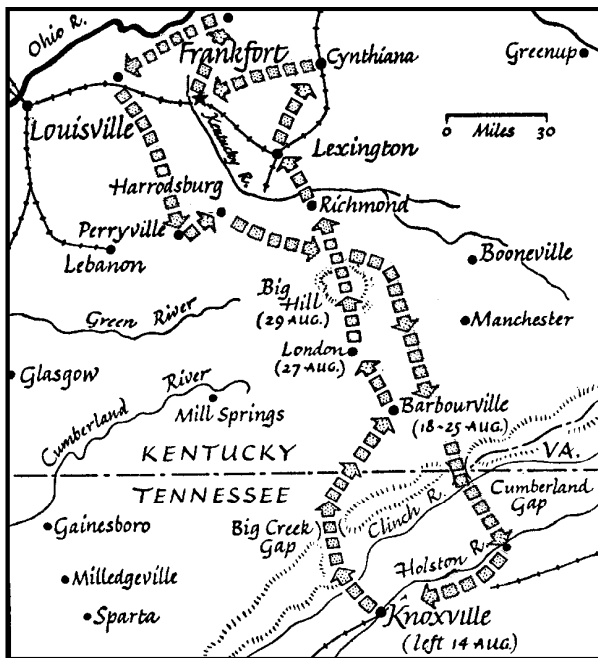


John Hunt Morgan

Israel, Noah, and Simeon boarded the train at Chattanooga and rode to Knoxville to join the rest of Smith's men. They were almost certainly happy to be away from Bragg for a while. Smith was not the brutal type that Bragg was. One problem was that Israel's condition had apparently worsened and he was quite ill.

On Thursday, August 14, Noah and Simeon left Knoxville without Israel. They headed for Cumberland

Gap, which was held by the Union. Rather than make a disastrous frontal assault, General Smith sent half his force to contain the Federal forces at the gap. He took the rest of the Army through Big Creek Gap. The men marched over the Cumberland Mountains onto the Cumberland Plateau and into Kentucky. The mountain terrain was rough, many of the men were barefoot, the weather was hot, and food and water were scarce. Noah and Simeon, like the majority of the army, were "flat landers" and unaccustomed to the rugged mountains.



Kentucky Campaign

Finally, they arrived in Barbourville, Kentucky, right on top of the Federal supply line from Lexington to Cumberland Gap. When the Union commander there heard of this, he knew he had been outflanked and retreated through eastern Kentucky into Ohio. After a few days rest, the army moved out toward Lexington. Smith did not have sufficient supplies and had to get more

the only way the Confederates often could, take them. Lexington was a large supply depot, and if taken, would supply his men luxuriously. He moved from Barbourville, to London, and then to Richmond, where a Federal force of raw recruits was waiting to try to stop him.

Saturday, August 30, was a clear and beautiful day. Kirby Smith's troops had now arrived at Richmond and the battle was about to begin. It began with the Texas artillery pounding the Federal positions very slowly to conserve ammunition. The fighting had already begun when Noah and Simeon moved up to their positions on the right side of the battle line. The Federal infantry concentrated the attack where the 47th was positioned, but they were able to repel the enemy. The Federals fell back and formed a new line on top of a ridge just south of town with the left portion of their line shielded by the stone wall of the Richmond Cemetery. At 5:00 p. m., as the Confederates hit the Union troops all along the line, Noah and Simeon attacked and swarmed over the wall into the cemetery to do hand-to-hand combat among the tombstones. The Union troops were overwhelmed and began retreating in full flight. The 47th had eight killed and twenty-four wounded in the battle.

Since he now had no real opposition, Kirby Smith set up his headquarters in Lexington, captured Frankfort, and waited for Bragg to get into position to link up with him. Kirby Smith used Preston Smith's brigade, which included the 47th, as part of his force to capture cities and excite the Federals. During this activity, Noah and Simeon travelled to Paris, Cynthiana, Frankfort, Hays Pond, and Shelbyville to capture the towns, and to upset the Federals in Cincinnati and Louisville. The trip to Hays Pond was mainly for harassment purposes since it placed the 47th within 30 miles of Cincinnati, sending the city into a panic. General Lew Wallace declared martial law, suspended business, and pressed citizens into crews to build earthwork defenses for the city. The movement to Shelbyville, 20 miles from Louisville, had a similar effect on Louisville.

At this point, General Bragg decided to reclaim his divisions that he had loaned to Kirby Smith, putting Noah and Simeon back under his command. Noah and Simeon were with Bragg when, on October 8, he attacked Buell's forces at Perryville. Bragg and Buell both were confused and made many errors. Fortunately, Noah and Simeon sat this one out since they had been held in reserve and were not called up during the battle. After a day's fighting, the Confederates clearly had the advantage. Bragg, who had thought he was fighting a small unit, suddenly realized he was facing the entire Army of Ohio. During the night he withdrew back to Harrodsburg to link up with Kirby Smith to consolidate his armies. Buell's forces cautiously moved in front of him at Harrodsburg, and everyone was awaiting the great battle. Much to everyone's surprise, Bragg withdrew again and proceeded to leave Kentucky. His subordinate officers were both astounded and furious because it was one of the few times in battle the South was in a position with superior forces, and Bragg decided not to fight, giving up all they had gained. Buell made some motions of pursuit but quickly gave up.

Bragg, when bringing his army to Kentucky, had made serious mistakes. One assumption was that the people of Kentucky would rise up and join the Confederate cause. Bragg even carried wagon loads of extra rifles to arm the expected volunteers. The mass defection to the Confederate cause did not happen. When the army began its long retreat back to Tennessee, it was quite a sight, with columns of marching soldiers, columns of wagon trains, refugee families in wagons, captured Union wagons with supplies, and even herds of cattle and pigs being handled by cowboys from the Texas units. It was a sad movement through London, Barbourville, the now Confederate Cumberland Gap, and Morristown, to Knoxville.

In Knoxville, Noah and Simeon had a happy reunion with Israel. Their commander, however, was

less than happy. Bragg had a message from President Jefferson Davis instructing him to come to Richmond to explain why he retreated from Kentucky the way he did. Bragg put the command of the army under General Polk and instructed him to go to Chattanooga and Murfreesboro. Israel, Noah, and Simeon then boarded the train for Chattanooga.

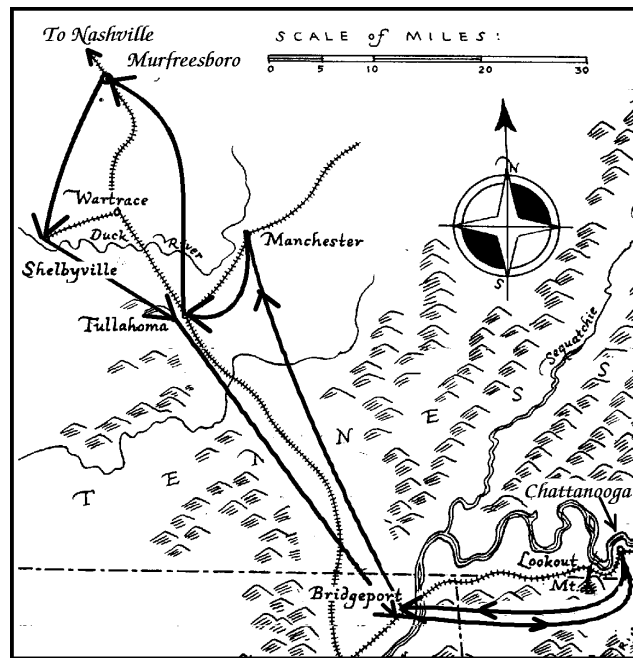
November 1862 - Middle Tennessee:

After regrouping in Chattanooga, Israel, Noah, and Simeon set out once more on foot, leaving Chattanooga Saturday, November 1, 1862, and marching via Bridgeport, Alabama to Manchester, Tullahoma, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, arriving on December 5. Here they were to prepare to attack Nashville or defend if the Union struck first. General William S. Rosecrans was now commanding the Federal troops at Nashville, 30 miles away. Lincoln had replaced Buell because he was angry that Buell failed to pursue Bragg when he was retreating from Kentucky. While Lincoln and General Halleck were warning Rosecrans to attack or be replaced, General Bragg returned from Richmond to take command of his army. He had survived the meeting with Davis, who was an old friend and former classmate.



William S. Rosecrans

On December 6, Israel, Noah, and Simeon went with the 47th to nearby LaVergne. The Confederate cavalry under John Hunt Morgan was preparing to attack Hartsville to hinder supplies reaching Rosecrans from Louisville, and the move to LaVergne was one of two designed to provide a diversion. They remained there a couple of weeks on picket duty and returned to Murfreesboro on December 22. It would be a poor Christmas in Murfreesboro for the three of them. There were 15,000 troops in the hospital. Bragg's forces were weakened by 10,000 men because President Davis had ordered him to send reinforcements to help in Mississippi. The 27,000 men remaining lacked clothing, equipment, and shelter. Food was scarce, even though some local warehouses were full. President Davis had allocated all of the East Tennessee resources to the Army of Northern Virginia, whose work he considered more important.



Middle Tennessee Campaign

31 December 1862 - Murfreesboro:

In spite of the threats by Lincoln and Halleck, Rosecrans remained in Nashville until he felt adequately supplied. Forty-four thousand Federal troops left Nashville on December 26 in three columns, which were ordered to march southeast and link up to attack the Confederates. The Confederate cavalry detected the movement and put their plan into action. They began to attack the troops along the way and

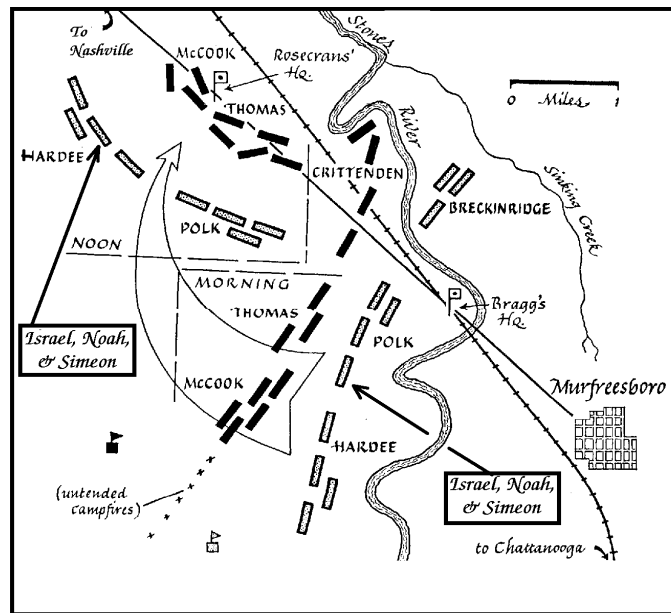
force them to stop and form battle lines. This slowed them down and allowed Bragg to form and consolidate his armies. In the process, the cavalry was able to capture 1,000 enemy prisoners and either capture or destroy several hundred wagons of supplies. The Federals finally arrived at Murfreesboro on December 29, and a skirmish began and quickly ended.

On the Tuesday, the 30th, preparations were being made for the battle each was sure would happen the next day. Both armies planned to strike the other on its right. Rosecrans used an old trick to deceive Bragg into thinking that he would attack on his left. During the night his soldiers lit many campfires to give the appearance of a great concentration of troops in that area. It shouldn't have worked, but it did. Israel, Noah, and Simeon were certainly tense and afraid that night with battle certain in the morning. Late that evening, as they were sitting in the cold, they heard the different regimental bands of the Union troops a short distance away playing "Yankee Doodle", "Hail Columbia", and other Northern patriotic songs. The Confederate bands would not be outdone and began to play Southern songs. This battle of the bands went on for some time until one of the Federal bands began playing "Home Sweet Home." A Confederate band immediately took up the song and one by one all the bands on both sides played the old sentimental song in concert. The bands ended and the refrain died away slowly in the frosty air.

Wednesday morning was cold, damp, and misty. At first light, Hardee's division hit the Union right with a devastating effect causing the Union divisions to fall back. As that fighting was progressing, Israel, Noah, and Simeon were at the center waiting in reserve to be called up to attack. There was a lot of confusion because of poor organization made by their division commander, who was reported to be drunk. The unit in front of them made some progress but got into withering fire and had to retreat in a hurry, running through the 47th's positions. The men of the 47th jeered them as they came through.

By 8:00 the Confederates had been pounding the Federals successfully, but their own losses were so high, Israel, Noah, and Simeon were now sent in to fight. They charged into the Union line and were making progress. One eyewitness said they, "raised a whoop and yell, and swooped down on those Yankees like a whirl-a-gust of woodpeckers in a hailstorm." In a moment of confusion in the middle of the attack, they were told to stop firing because an officer mistakenly thought they were firing at Rebels. The Yankees launched a counterattack that drove them back across an open field, leaving them exposed to fire. The Confederates regrouped and attacked again, and with the help of another division, they pushed the enemy back with fierce fighting. General Sheridan's division had to swing around to prevent being outflanked.

The Confederates continued to push the Union's right, swinging it like a jackknife closing until the Union line was closing on itself. Sheridan's division formed the critical point of the new position, and all



Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River)



Phillip A. Sheridan

afternoon the Confederate forces tried to split the Union forces at that point but were unsuccessful. At the end of the day, the Yankees were not fully defeated, but they had taken a beating. Bragg telegraphed Richmond to declare a total victory, a move he would regret. Much of Rosecrans' staff recommended withdrawing, but he declined.

The night was almost indescribable. It had been raining all day, and as dark fell, the temperature dropped below freezing. Many soldiers were too stunned to comprehend and too cold to move. Many wandered the field looking for friends. Our three men, with little to protect them from the weather, must have suffered greatly. The field was strewn with the dead and the dying. Some begged for help, called for Mother, or begged to be shot to end their

misery. The dead were frozen to the ground by their own blood. Many of the wounded huddled together, and didn't worry whether their companions wore blue or gray.

Bragg was startled when New Year's Day began and Rosecrans was still there. He attended to minor details without making any major moves or ordering a general attack. The stunned Federals were not anxious to begin again and didn't start anything. Another miserable night passed, and the rain and sleet returned. It appeared that January 2 would be like January 1, with no major fighting, and so it went until late afternoon. Throughout the day, Bragg had his units probe the Federals to see where they were. At 4:00 p. m. he ordered an attack on an artillery position, depending on the hour being too late to allow a counterattack. He sent General Breckenridge to capture the position over Breckenridge's protests that it was suicide for his men. After capturing the position, they were hit with an artillery barrage from 58 cannons that were delivering 100 shells per minute. Casualties were extremely high and they had to pull back. That night troops were repositioned to gain better advantage the next day. On the morning of the third, Bragg was able to finally see his poor position and convened a council of his generals. It was a unanimous decision to retreat.

Both sides claimed victory in the battle, but the outcome was certainly in the Union's favor. The losses from the battle were startling to even the generals. Rosecrans lost 13,000 men (25% of his troops), and Bragg lost 12,000 men (30% of his troops). The 47th lost 86 of its 263 men. These horrifying numbers gave the North an advantage. They could easily replace these troops. The South was stretched to its limits. Additional troops were not to be had. The Union now controlled most of Tennessee, and could free up additional forces that did not have to be used defending Tennessee and Kentucky.

January 1863 - Shelbyville:

On the afternoon of the third, the Confederates began moving south. Israel, Noah, and Simeon, along with the 47th, retreated to Shelbyville with the rest of Polk's Corps. Hardee's Corps went to Tullahoma. The weather was intensely cold and miserable. As Israel, Noah and Simeon plodded through the mud, they were alternately soaked with rain and pelted with sleet. Hands and feet were numb, and the wet packs were much heavier than normal. They were physically miserable and spiritually depressed. On January 14, they finally arrived. They began serving as provost guard there.

Bragg was engulfed in controversy again. There was anger and dismay all though the South about his loss and withdrawal at Murfreesboro. His troops disliked him as much as ever. His generals were practically in rebellion. Bragg made the mistake of saying he would retire if the generals had lost confidence in him and asked for statements from each of them. He was distressed that they strongly stated



Joseph E. Johnston

their lack of confidence. Jefferson Davis got word of this and still fully supported his classmate but had to deal with it. He sent Joe Johnston to investigate. When Johnston arrived, Bragg was doing what he did best, organize and drill an encamped army. Johnston reported that there was no need to replace Bragg. Later, however, the Secretary of War ordered Johnston to take the command from Bragg. In a bizarre twist of fate, after taking command, Johnston became very ill and left to recuperate, leaving Bragg in charge. Bragg forgot about his promise to retire, and set about blaming his subordinates for all of his defeats.

The six-month encampment at Shelbyville and Tullahoma was the longest period of rest for any Confederate army during the war. It was badly needed! It was an incredibly muddy place, but it was bustling with activity. Fresh supplies were brought in, and for the first time in a long time the soldiers were reasonably fed and clothed. A great religious revival spread through the camp, and it was encouraged by the commanders. For the rest there was cockfighting, keno, and whiskey. There were festivities and horse

races when large inspection ceremonies were being held. Of course, for the 44,000 men there was Bragg's own brand of drilling, discipline, and death sentences.

All was not well for our three, however. The long stretches in the cold, rain, and ice during the battle of Murfreesboro, along with the miserable retreat to Shelbyville, had taken its toll. Israel became seriously ill and was placed in a camp hospital, probably in Tullahoma. Later he was apparently sent to a hospital in Chattanooga. This time, Simeon got sick also and ended up in a hospital in Atlanta. Around the first of April, Israel died after his long illness. It had to be devastating to Noah, who was still on duty. His little brother was dead, and his brother-in-law, who was like a brother, was away in a hospital. Eventually, word of Israel's death reached his wife Frances in Dyer County. The next page is the transcription of a letter received by Frances, consoling her of her loss.

It was summer and Rosecrans still had not pursued Bragg, in spite of pressure from President Lincoln and General Halleck. He had now assembled a well-supplied army of 70,000 men. Bragg had made extensive defense preparations making the defense line was well entrenched. He had made an exceedingly poor decision in his defense strategy. All of his defenses were made assuming a frontal assault. On June 24, Rosecrans moved south to do a flanking attack on the Southern right. Noah was involved in some skirmishes at Shelbyville that Rosecrans had started to divert attention from the main attack in the east. After Rosecrans was able to get around the Southern right and cut the rail line between Bragg and Chattanooga, Bragg ordered his army to consolidate at Tullahoma. Noah left Shelbyville early in the morning of June 27 arriving in Tullahoma late in the afternoon after slogging through mud and rain all day. On July first, the army retreated to a more defensible position to fight, and then to another. When Rosecrans didn't pursue, Bragg continued to retreat. After a very fatiguing march, with heavy rain every day, and only half rations, Noah arrived in Chattanooga on July 7.

July 1863 - Chattanooga:

Noah was now in Chattanooga wondering what would happen next. Bragg was described as being "in a haze." He was full of indecision and, not only could not decide what to do, he was not keeping track of Rosecrans. Jefferson Davis was making apologies for Bragg's retreat, while Bragg was busy blaming subordinates. The men were fairly healthy, wanting to fight, but Bragg was going to sit and wait until

Shelbyville, Tenn
June 11th / 63

Mrs. Taylor.

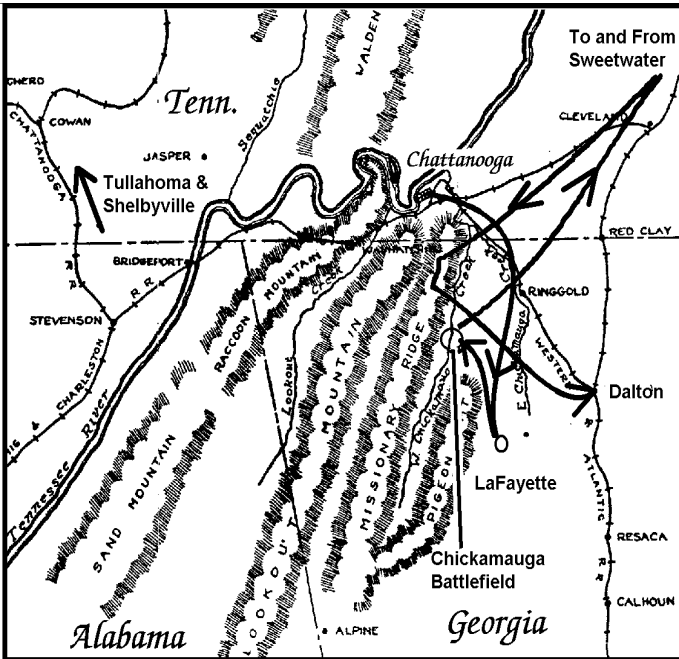
Having heard that you have come to this sort of state to hear of Israel, and that you would be glad to hear as much of his history while he was in the army as possible, I have ventured to drop you a line in reference to his health, his moral conduct, and his religious bearing. Israel's health was never good while he was in the army. Indeed it was so very bad that I became satisfied while we were in Tullahoma last winter that he could never be of any service as a soldier and exerted myself to get him discharged together with several other dischargees. But I was only assistant in charge and therefore could not extend my efforts further than my own regiment, and consequently the attempt failed. After Israel was sent to the hospital, I received a letter from him requesting me to try to do something further. But I had been assigned to another field of labour and could do nothing to benefit him.

As to how Israel died, I cannot speak from observation, but I think I may safely judge of his death from his life. I think I may safely say that, Israel lived, while in the Army, an exemplary Christian. I saw him frequently and conversed with him, and though his ill health caused him to despond, yet I don't think I ever heard him murmur. I feel confident that he now rests from his labours, and that if we emulate his deeds this parting will only be temporary and the time will soon come when we shall meet him where wars never come, where friends never part, and where tears are never dropped. I want you to remember me to your parents and relatives and friends.

In conclusion; permit me as a friend, and old neighbor, to urge upon you the importance of constant trusting in God, who is the widow's friend, and the orphan's father, who never forsakes the righteous, nor allows their little one to beg bread, and who has already received the father, and if you are faithful to your little trust, will in due time receive you, and your little ones. May a gracious redeemer and benefactor supply you with that degree of grace which will enable you to be reconciled to your bereavements, to trust in God, and, on occasions, to honor his name. Hoping this humble letter, written in confusion, when patients are constantly interrupting me by calling for medicine, will be received in the same spirit in which it has been written. I ask to be respectfully your humble servant.

J. S. Smith

Letter from J. S. Smith to Israel's Widow
(Transcription of Original Provided by Virginia Smith)



Chattanooga Area

Rosecrans acted. Johnston offered to send troops if Bragg would fight - he wouldn't. In spite of all of his history, his old friend Jefferson Davis enlarged Bragg's authority while in Chattanooga.

While Noah was in Chattanooga, another tragedy occurred. Over one hundred miles south in Atlanta, Simeon lay in a hospital bed, his condition worsening. On July 18, 1863, Simeon died. Noah probably heard a few days later. Noah was now alone. His brothers had been with him since he was a child and were his best friends.

By September, Rosecrans was moving to attack Chattanooga. He was bringing some forces in from the north, but the thrust of his attack would be from the south, crossing the Tennessee River in Alabama, going across some incredibly rough terrain, and coming up the creek

valleys. The mountains and ridges were not true mountains and ridges but were long, flat-topped mesas that were remnants left behind after the creeks and rivers cut gorges in an ancient plateau. The slopes of these ridges were extremely steep and often ended in sheer cliffs at the top. To make it more difficult, the slopes were a tangle of trees and other vegetation that approached a rain forest environment.

Now that Rosecrans was upon him, Bragg finally decided to act. He planned to attack Rosecrans in the south with his full army, which would require him to abandon Chattanooga. Noah left Chattanooga on Monday, September 7, with the 47th, for LaFayette, Georgia. The evacuation of troops from Chattanooga was complete on the eighth, and on the morning of September 9, Union General Crittendon brought his troops into Chattanooga without firing a shot. Noah was on half rations, he did not have a tent, and a drought was occurring, making the water scarce. It was not going to be a pleasant September.

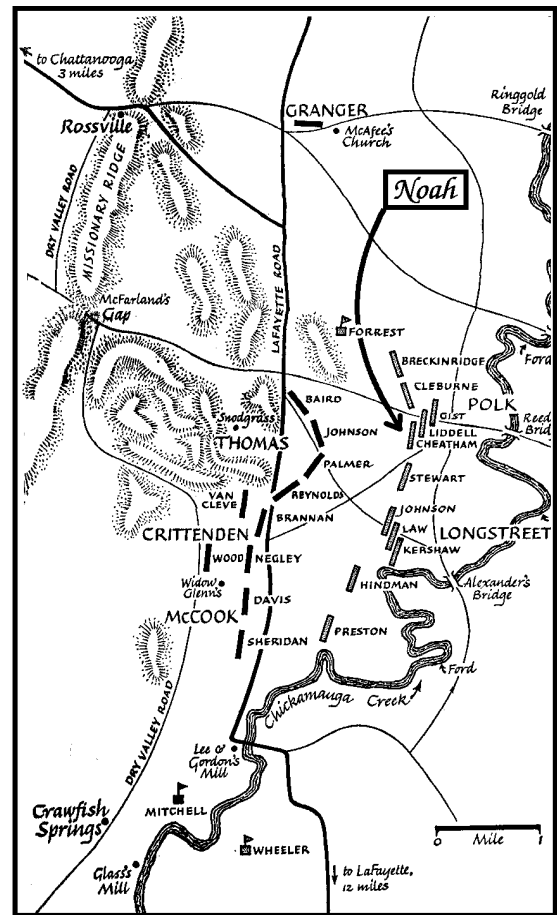
Bragg had a formidable army to utilize. He was reinforced by General Buckner, after Buckner abandoned Knoxville, and General Johnston sent troops from Mississippi. General Longstreet, one of Robert E. Lee's top generals, was so disgusted with Bragg's previous unwillingness to fight, he convinced Lee to send him to help ensure that a fight would be had. This gave Bragg 66,000 troops to go up against the 58,000 of Rosecrans. Bragg did a good job of sending troops to pretend to be deserters and spread misinformation to the Union commanders. His "deserters" convinced Rosecrans that the Confederate Army was in full flight and heading toward Atlanta. Acting on this, Rosecrans split his army to find the Rebels and give chase. Bragg's brilliant plan was working, but its execution failed. His indecision and the distrust his generals had in him caused the loss of several opportunities to annihilate each of Rosecrans' corps, one at a time.

19 September 1863 - Chickamauga:

Rosecrans suddenly realized that Bragg was not retreating and that he had a large force. He sent couriers out to order his forces to rush to him. After his forces were joined together again, he was preparing to

move cautiously back to Chattanooga. Bragg rushed to intercept him. On Friday, September 18, both armies were moving north along the Chickamauga Valley, the Rebels on the east side and the Yankees on the west side of Chickamauga Creek. During the night, Bragg's troops crossed the creek and prepared for battle the next day.

Noah was in Cheatham's division near the center. As Saturday dawned, the armies were widely separated. Noah lay waiting for an enemy he couldn't see. The enemy was about a mile away, and he would be lucky to see 50 yards in this rugged area. On his right, Noah heard the first sounds of battle when a Federal reconnaissance party encountered General Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry, who were dismounted. When the Confederate infantry went in to protect Forrest, it created a major confrontation, the Confederates pounding the Union Forces and then being flanked and driven back by two Union Divisions. Now Noah received the order to move out. Cheatham's division ran in to rescue the threatened Confederate Division. When they joined in, a disaster was prevented; but a fierce dogfight started between Noah's unit and the Union Forces. Each side began pumping other units into the fight. Fighting then slowly spread all along the line. Noah was totally exhausted by the end of fighting that day. He had been involved in fierce combat for 10 hours. Rosecrans had to withdraw from his original position, but he was still in a good position. Bragg, still holding inflexibly to his original battle plan, failed to take advantage of several opportunities to have a solid victory. During the night General Longstreet arrived from Virginia and was given the position for his troops.



Chickamauga

On the next day, Noah was lining up for battle on the Confederate right, ready for a dawn attack. Through some miscommunication and confusion, the attack was delayed. When they were finally getting the units in place, it was discovered that Noah's unit would be behind another unit, making it impossible for them to fire. The unit, therefore, was placed in reserve. I am certain that Noah was not unhappy about this. The Confederates charged the union forces in well dug-in positions and were thrown back. As the Federals were shifting units to reinforce on their left, a hole formed in the line. Longstreet sent his men through the hole and swung right, flanking and encircling them. The Federal units began to break up and the men started fleeing toward Chattanooga. They captured Rosecrans' headquarters, but he was already running toward Chattanooga.

Half of the Federal troops were still on the field, and they were being commanded by the only senior officer left, General Thomas. He placed his troops on and in front of Horseshoe Ridge, a strong defensive position. The Federals were able to repel every charge. Later in the afternoon Noah was back in service. Artillery was being effectively used against the Federal lines, with divisions were being thrown against them after the lines were softened by artillery. Noah's unit made a headlong charge into the enemy line,

breaking through. The enemy, being flanked, began to retreat. By 6:00 p. m. the whole Federal Army was rushing toward Rossville, Georgia, near Chattanooga. His stand there earned Thomas the nickname, "The Rock of Chickamauga." The legend that he held his ground until the fighting ended at nightfall is incorrect.

The Confederates had a major victory, but their commander didn't realize it. He had left the field early in the afternoon when he was upset that he could not execute his original battle plan. He was awakened that evening for a report on the day and to urge him to pursue the enemy, but he could not be convinced that they had a major victory. The victory was at a high price. General Hill said that he had never seen the dead lying so thick on the ground. The Federals lost 16,000 men, the Confederates lost 17,000 men. Some Confederate units lost 60 percent of their men. The 47th reported expenditure of 14,350 rounds of ammunition, and the loss of 87 killed and wounded, including two captains and three lieutenants killed.



George H. Thomas

24 November 1863 - Missionary Ridge:

Following the battle, Noah remained in the Chattanooga Valley until October 29, when the 47th moved to Sweetwater, Tennessee. It came back on November 7 and joined Major General T.C. Hindman's Division on Missionary Ridge. Bragg failed to follow up on his gains at Chickamauga and now was busily trying to develop a case to blame others. He had settled into a strategy of remaining in defensive mode, preventing resupply of Chattanooga, which would starve the Federals out. He established a line of defenses in an arch around the southern portion of the city. Key portions of this line were Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The dissatisfaction of the Generals was so strong that Jefferson Davis had to come to try to smooth things over. They had a series of meetings, and things got worse. Davis, of course, supported his old classmate. The opposition to Bragg was so strong and universal Davis couldn't soothe it over, so he just left. Noah, as a private perched atop Missionary Ridge, was unaware of all of this political action. He was looking down at the Federal lines wishing he were back home. He, however, would have shared the generals' anger and distaste for Bragg.

The aftermath of the confrontation with his generals prompted Bragg to make some serious mistakes that weakened his fighting readiness. General Forrest was so upset he obtained a transfer to West Tennessee. In order to rid himself of the conflict, he sent Longstreet and Buckner to Knoxville with a large contingent of troops. General Polk was sent to Mississippi. He had General Cleburne's division back at Chickamauga preparing to go. These decisions, based on personal issues, were severely reducing his strength.

Grant had now been given overall command of the western armies and he came to Chattanooga to setup his headquarters. His main goal was to open a supply channel for the city. On November 23, his forces were able to take Lookout Mountain. General Sherman had arrived in the city and was being sent around a hill near Missionary Ridge to allow his troops to move unseen on the Rebel flank of this almost impenetrable position. The Rebels were vastly outnumbered, but they had the high ground. When Sherman tried to attack, he was beaten back by the Rebels. They fired and rolled boulders down on the Federals. They took artillery shells, lit the fuses, and bowled them down the ridge. General Thomas sent his men to capture the rifle pits at the bottom of the ridge to create a diversion. After they captured the pits they

began climbing the ridge, pulling themselves up with vines. Remarkably, they were able to reach the top and take the position. The Confederates were in full retreat.

November 1863 - Dalton, Georgia:

They rushed to Dalton, Georgia, with General Cheatham effectively providing the rear guard while being pressed strongly by the Union troops. They arrived November 27 and went into winter quarters. The clamor for removal of Bragg was throughout the Confederacy. Davis' cabinet was even wanting to press for his removal. Davis was in another dilemma trying to protect his friend. Finally, Bragg, after trying to place the blame on the other officers, sent a report to Davis asking to be relieved of command.

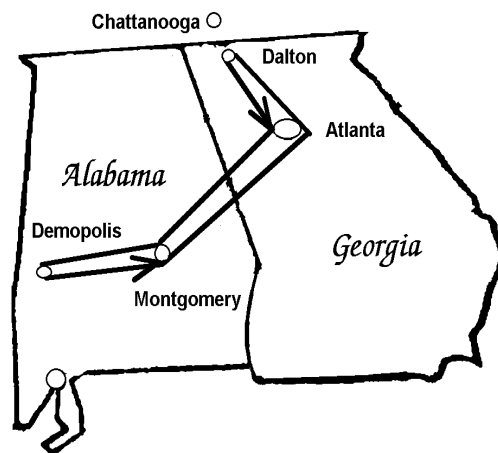
The government searched hard to determine the best person to replace Bragg. After many were eliminated, the one chosen was Joseph Johnston. This bothered Davis, since he had always disliked Johnston. It bothered many others because Johnston had shown an unwillingness to press the battle, but he seemed the lesser of the evils at the time. As for Bragg, he became military advisor to the President. This upset many of those who wanted to see him just go away. They were even more upset when the announcement made him effectively commander-in-chief of all the Confederate armies. It was amazing how far Davis would take his friendship. When Johnston took command the troops were very happy, partly because he was liked, partly because they were glad to be rid of Bragg.

It was to be a difficult winter with no tents, and scanty rations. Crude shelters were erected, which were not as comfortable as they might have been made due to a shortage of axes. The winter was unusually cold with temperatures near zero at times. The men did not have enough blankets, and Johnston said he was pained to see so many barefoot men in the camp. Johnston worked hard to correct the problems. By April, one of the officers said that the men were better clothed than at any previous time.

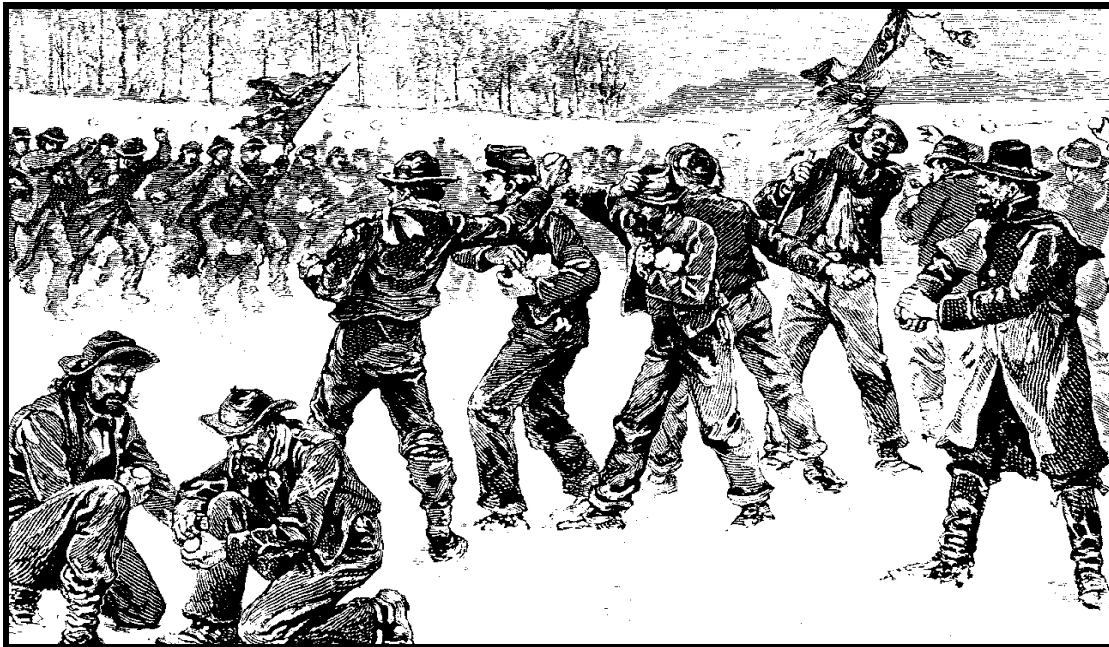
February 1864 - Long trip to nowhere:

On February 20, the brigade was transferred back to Cheatham's Division, where it remained for the duration of the war. The regiment was part of an expedition, which was started to re-enforce General Polk in Mississippi. Sherman and his generals were moving from Memphis to threaten him. The men of the 47th boarded trains at Dalton, Georgia, heading for Mississippi by way of Atlanta and Montgomery. General Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry attacked the supporting troops of Sherman and caused him to give up and retreat back to Memphis, ending the threat to Polk.

On February 16, the first elements of the regiment reached Demopolis, Alabama, and were ordered back to Dalton. The troops arrived back at Dalton just in time to save it from an attack by General Thomas from Chattanooga. While Noah was aboard the train at Atlanta, Georgia, on February 29, where the regiment was awaiting shipment to Dalton, the men were grumbling about going back. General Polk had promised plenty of pork and bacon to the troops when they got to Mississippi. Now they would be going back to cornmeal.



Demopolis and Back



22 Mar 1864 - Battle?:

When Noah awoke on March 22, he saw that a heavy snow had come during the night. Some men from the deeper parts of the South were fascinated by this and soon a playful atmosphere developed. The snowball fights began and spread throughout the camp. Soon the officers began to take part and started forming their units to do battle. In the afternoon, in what must be the largest snowball fight in history, Cheatham's Division, Noah's division, took on the Georgians under General Walker. The battle line that formed extended over a mile with six thousand troops, commanded by Generals and Colonels, participating. After furious charges and countercharges over four hours, Walker's men were driven back into the woods to the cheer of the victorious Tennesseans. One of Walker's Colonels claimed foul because half of his men had never been in a snow fight. While this was play, these were rough men, making their play was rough play. There was blood on the snow from all of the bloody noses, sometimes the result of a rock inside the snowball, and many had black eyes and missing teeth. Very few entertaining things happened that winter, so rough as it was, they considered the great snowball battle great fun.

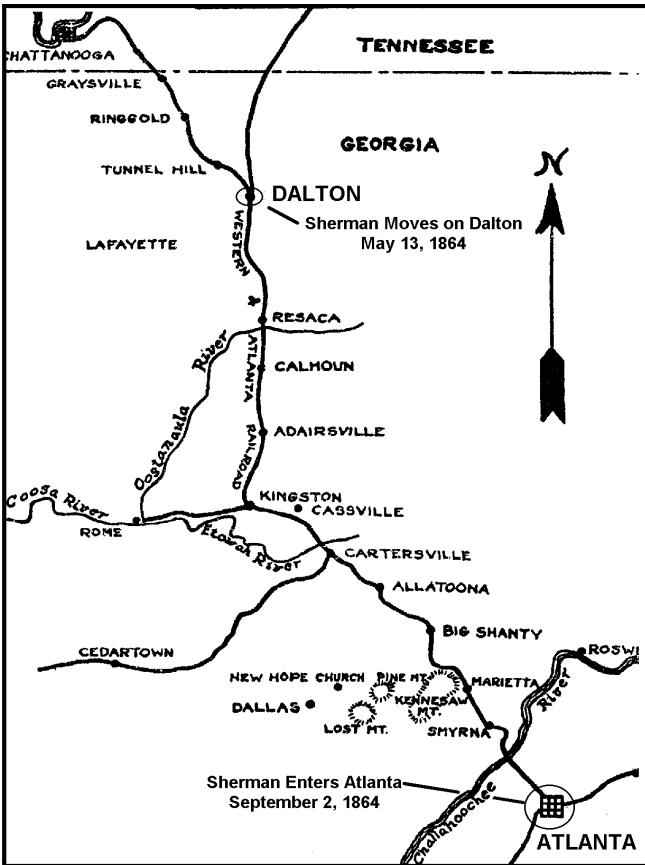
May 1864 - Sherman to Atlanta:

On May 4, 1864, Sherman's long push to Atlanta began. He left Chattanooga with 100,000 men to hit the Confederate Army at Dalton, Georgia, travel the 120 miles to Atlanta, and take the city. When the armies met at Dalton, Johnston, who commanded half as many men as Sherman, was flanked and withdrew to Resaca. The Confederates were pushed mile by mile, with a hundred or more battles along the way. These had names like: Adairsville, Kingston, Allatoona, Cartersville, New Hope Church, and Kennesaw Mountain. Some were victories for the South, but the fallback to Atlanta was relentless.

In late July, the Confederates were pushed back into the city. Jefferson Davis was unhappy with Johnston's performance and



John Bell Hood



Retreat to Atlanta

replaced him with John Bell Hood. General Sherman was delighted! True, Hood would take the offensive more than Johnston, but he was less nimble and his fiery disposition often led him to rash moves. Sherman, unwilling to smash into the city's defenses, now laid siege to the city. He would encircle, cut the railroad links and starve them out. Sherman's artillery could reach any point in the city forcing the people into caves and cellars. Noah was not sitting safely behind the city's defenses. During the entire siege, his new aggressive commander would send his division out almost daily to intercept and fight Sherman's forces as he worked to cutoff the city.

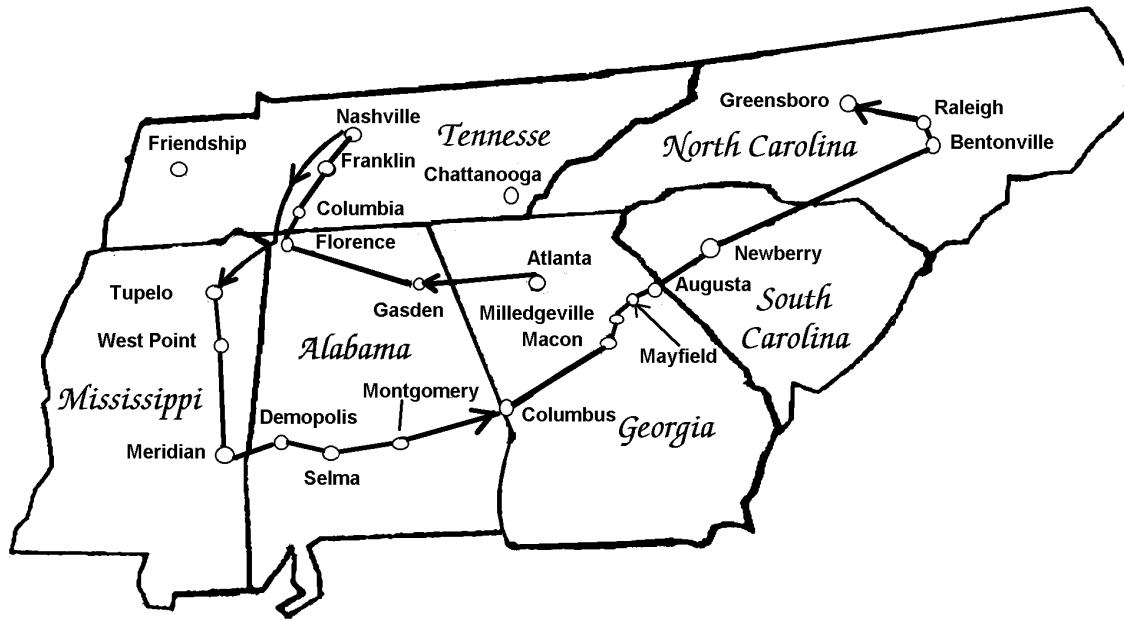
On August 31 and September 1, Sherman and Hood clashed in large numbers as Sherman attempted to cut the railroad at Jonesboro. Hood moved nearly his entire army to intercept, leaving Atlanta virtually undefended. Hood was overwhelmed by a superior Union force in two days of heavy fighting. While the fighting was going on, the remaining Federal troops north of the city entered and took control. When informed of this, Sherman, whose lines were

directly facing Hood's in overwhelming numbers, simply turned around, marched off, and left them. Sherman entered Atlanta on September 2. It was a monumental blow to the Confederacy, since Atlanta had factories and warehouses that supplied the Confederate war machine, and the city controlled the junction of most of the southeastern railroads. When Sherman left Atlanta two months later it would be in flames.

Since May 4, Noah had fought one battle quickly after another. In the six weeks since they arrived at Atlanta, he had been in constant combat. He and the rest of the army had little left within themselves. Since July alone they had lost nearly 10,000 men. The Federals had lost 24,000 during the same period. Now they had a new task. Sherman was expelling all civilians from Atlanta, regardless of age or health. He made a limited truce with Hood to not engage at the Rough and Ready station south of the city. He would transport the civilians and dump them there for Hood's men to take care of. Noah and his fellow soldiers did what they could to help and transport them, but they were overwhelmed.

October 1864 - Hood to Tennessee:

In early October, Hood started moving his men north of Atlanta. Almost everyone felt that the best use of his forces now was to harass and interrupt Sherman's supply and communications lines to the north. Hood was able to inflict a great deal of damage to the railroads and felt he was being successful. The Union, however, had great resources in men, materials, and equipment, allowing it to repair any damage quickly, limiting the interruption. Failing in this, Hood and Jefferson Davis decided to make a bold, if unwise and futile, move. Hood would move north and take Nashville, move into Kentucky, get recruits,



Atlanta to the End

and go to Virginia to help Lee.

On Saturday, October 22, Hood put his plans into motion. He left Gasden, Alabama, and marched down the Tennessee River, crossing at Florence, Alabama, completing the crossing on November 16. He later joined Forrest's Calvary for the push. In a snow flurry on November 19, Noah headed north toward Nashville. Hood hit the Federal forces on the Duck River at Columbia and forced them back to Spring Hill. Due to a delay in Cheatham's movements, they were unable to crush the Yankees, and the Union troops fled to Franklin and dug in. Hood, furious at the lost opportunity, had a lapse in judgement. At Franklin he ordered direct frontal assaults on the reinforced Union positions. Noah's unit had to charge again and again with great loss of life. After it was over, Hood had lost 6,000 men and had gained no ground. Six Southern generals were killed that day.

When the Federals fell back into Nashville, Hood followed, taking up positions outside the city, sending Nashville into a panic. Thomas, defending Nashville with almost three Union soldiers to each Southern soldier, took his time in spite of pressure from his superiors. Noah, waiting in his position, had to endure an ice storm, poorly dressed as he was. On December 15, Thomas struck with vastly superior numbers, repeatedly smashing the Southern army. The Confederates began a retreat that turned into a rout.

December 1864 - Back to Tupelo:

The remains of the Army retreated south to Tupelo, which was now unguarded, but they were not able to go in peace. Thomas' men were in pursuit, and the Rebels had to skirmish all along the way. As they went down Franklin Pike disorganized and without units, they were bewildered, it was cold, it was raining, it was dark, and the road was littered with the damages of war. Noah went through Franklin and then to Columbia where Forrest, having sensed the army's need, arrived unexpectedly. He then did his best to hold off the Northern pursuers. On Christmas Day, Hood's men began crossing the Tennessee River near Florence, Alabama, with the help of some stray Federal pontoons that had drifted downstream and in spite of two gunboats that tried to interfere. They then went through Tuscumbia, Iuka, and Corinth, to Tupelo.



Richard Taylor

It is hard to imagine from our perspective how miserable Noah was during that December campaign. In six weeks he had marched 500 miles and fought in disastrous battles with extremely high casualties. It was the earliest and coldest winter Tennessee had known for years. Most of the soldiers did not have tents, many did not have hats, and half of the men had no shoes. When you are lying in a field in the freezing rain with no shelter except a ragged wet blanket for warmth, the misery is indescribable and life threatening. The hard frozen ruts cut the feet of the men causing them to leave bloody footprints in the snow. This campaign has been described as the worst any army has faced since Valley Forge.

Now they were back where they started nearly three years ago, but a lot of damage had been done in three years. The men hardly looked like an army and were described as “the shattered debris of an Army.” The once great army, now commanded by General Richard Taylor, only had 17,000 men, a far cry from

earlier days. The misery and despair was great, but surprisingly the spirit of these men was such that in a few weeks they were ready for more.

January 1865 - Last Gasp:

Unwilling to ever say die, the plan was now to move the remnants of the Army of Tennessee to the Carolinas to help there and take the pressure off Robert E. Lee in Virginia. This was going to be extremely difficult since the enemy held much of the area on the way to the Carolinas, and the transportation system was in shambles. With the Confederate Army ever resourceful, on January 25, Noah left Tupelo marching to West Point. Then he went by train to Meridian and Selma, Alabama, through Demopolis. He took a steamboat to Montgomery, train to Columbus, Georgia, and marched to Macon, Milledgeville, and Mayfield. From Mayfield, he took the train to Augusta and then marched to Newberry, South Carolina! What an irony! All of the travels brought Noah back to his birthplace. During the stay he must have really enjoyed seeing relatives and friends. At Newberry, Cheatham’s Division linked up with another division.

Joseph Johnston had been put in charge of the army that was forming in North Carolina. The soldiers were glad of this because they had all liked him since he was interested in the men. Sherman now had moved into North Carolina, and one of his wings was approaching. Johnston placed his army at Bentonville to intercept the incoming Federals before they could link up with Sherman. On March 19, while the Confederates lay in wait, contact was made as the Federal advance cavalry came up against the Confederate line. The Federals were repelled repeatedly, and Rebel countercharges were effective. By afternoon, the Union troops had been routed. On March 20, as the stunned Union commanders regrouped and replanned, Noah arrived from South Carolina with Cheatham’s division to a cheering crowd.

On the twenty-first action began again, with several skirmishes, including a cavalry battle. Now, however, Sherman was bringing his whole army into play. When Johnston became aware of it, he had to withdraw to Smithfield and Raleigh, since Sherman’s forces outnumbered him four to one. This was the last fighting these men would do. On April 6, as Sherman marched on Raleigh, Johnston retreated to Chapel Hill, Salem, and then headed toward Greensboro. Camped at Greensboro, Johnston learned of Lee’s surrender at Appomatox Courthouse and knew it was over. Negotiations began on the 14th, and final surrender terms were set on the 26th.

2 May 1865 - The End:

On Tuesday, May 2, the regiment was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina. The war was over with Noah was 500 miles from home at Friendship. The companies headed west in units to cross the mountains and the length of Tennessee to home. They were given one rifle for each seven men to provide protection and to allow hunting along the way. They could keep their personal property and use the army wagons. Although they were going home, it would still be a long, hard, sad, journey. So much had happened since 1862, so many had died, they had struggled so much, so much was lost.

The Rest of the Story:

Frances, Israel's wife, was left with two children, Austin and Fletcher. In 1867 she married John Hay and raised a second family. Family tradition has it that John came back from the war and helped on the farm until she would marry him. Frances apparently remained in the Dyer/Crockett County area for the remainder of her life. Her two sons Fletcher and Austin raised their families in the same area.

After the fighting was over, Noah returned home to Dyer County. Nancy was frequently ill, and Noah would take her to Florida to visit his brothers and sister during the winters. On July 13, 1876, Nancy died. In 1877, Noah married Cordelia (Delia) Cheek in Barfield, Arkansas. Cordelia had been a friend of the family; and family tradition has it that Nancy, when she knew she was dying, told Noah to go and marry Delia.

Noah and his new wife moved to Bradford County, Florida, near his brothers and sister. On January 7, 1900, he died. After his death Delia received a small state pension as the widow of a Confederate veteran. It was later cancelled because some records indicated that Noah may have deserted, a frequent error on service records. An attorney, who was a lieutenant in Company B of the 47th, wrote an affidavit certifying Noah's service (next page). Nearly 30 years after her husband, on February 18, 1928, Delia died.

Isabella remained a widow for the rest of her life, raising her children alone. Her daughter Sarah married Israel's son Fletcher (double first cousins marrying). Her son Simeon moved to Texas and became wealthy when oil was found on his land. Most of her children lived and raised their families in the Dyer/Crockett County area.

The Taylors had fought for a lost cause, but one in which they strongly believed. They were protecting their homeland. The price was frightfully high: Israel and Simon never returned.

B.H. HARMON
ATTORNEY - AT - LAW

MAURY CITY, TENN. Jan'y 18 1910

I, B. H. Harmon a Notary Public for Crockett County, Tennessee, do hereby certify as under oath, that I was personally acquainted with Noah Taylor in his life time, husband of Mrs. Delia Taylor applicant to be continued as a pensioner, I became acquainted with him in 1858, that the said Noah Taylor enlisted in Company "B", 47th Tennessee Infantry, C.S.A. about the last of November or first of December 1861 at Trenton, Tennessee, and to the best of my information and belief served to the close of the war. However, I was captured by the enemy at Atlanta, Ga., August 3, 1864, and remained a prisoner at Johnson's Island, Ohio till close of war June 1865. I was a Lieutenant of Company "B", 47th Tenn. Inf. Regiment with said Noah Taylor, and he was in line of duty at the time I was captured.

I will further state that Noah Taylor was a man and soldier of good moral character, an upright Christian gentleman. His record as a soldier was untarnished. He fought in the Battles of Shiloh, Richmond Ky, Perryville Ky, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and perhaps on hundred battles from Dalton, Ga. To Atlanta, Ga. In 1864. In all of these previous times Noah Taylor discharged the duties of a brave and valiant soldier.

I am also acquainted with Mrs. Delia Taylor, widow of Noah Taylor deceased, and she too is a deserving, high-toned Christian lady, and I have looked upon the mound beneath which lay the mortal remains of her husband Noah Taylor at Olustee near Providence, Fla. I further state that I have no interest in the prosecution of her claim for pension

Given under my hand and official seal, at Maury City, Tennessee, Jan'y 18, 1910.

B.H. Harmon
Notary Public

Letter from B. H. Harmon Defending Noah's Service
(Transcription)

Genealogy

Below are the families of the three men. The children and spouses shown here are as they were known when this document was finalized. It certainly will not last long without needing a correction.

<p>Israel Taylor sp- Frances E. Hawkins</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *D Fletcher Taylor sp- Sarah J Hawkins sp- Annie W sp- Ellen Jane Stevenson *Elijah Austin Taylor sp- Nannie Harwell sp- Susan Neely </p>	<p>Noah Taylor sp- Nancy Hawkins</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Taylor (infant) *William Newberry Taylor sp- Rebecca L Harton sp- Miranda G Mosley *Elijah Malanghthan Taylor *Isabelle Alice Taylor sp- James Hill *Malissa Emma Taylor *Mary Price Taylor sp- T E Mixon *Rufus RubinTaylor sp- Annie B *James Noah Taylor <p>sp- Cordelia Cheek</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mary Elizabeth Taylor sp- Frank J Stewart *Russell Thomas Taylor sp- Atlanta Gertrude Ellis *Mattie Annie Taylor sp- Chester Summers *Myrtle Opal Taylor sp- Bethel O Colson *Sarah Hogan Taylor sp- William Glenn Nettles *Trumie Irene Taylor sp- Isaac Nelson Nettles *Noah Estel Taylor sp- Jane Clark </p> </p>	<p>Simeon Peter Hawkins sp- Isabella Taylor</p> <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mary E Hawkins sp- W D Hamilton *Rebecca Jane Hawkins sp- John Crafford Brashears *Simon P Hawkins sp- Sarah A Hardin *F A Hawkins *George T Hawkins sp- Fannie Hickman *L Hawkins *Noah Hawkins sp- Cema *James Hawkins *Sarah J Hawkins sp- D Fletcher Taylor *Harriet Hawkins sp- James Wilkerson Smith </p>
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The information on the lineage and families of Israel, Noah, and Simeon was obtained through a vast number of public record documents and through family documents and information. The fundamental record of their military service was obtained from public documents. To tie in this information to the events and personalities of the Civil War, I relied heavily on text, pictures, and diagrams from the following books.

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