

# Confederate Veteran

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In the larger room will be located the Museum proper, where the most interesting relics of General Lee, and also some connected with General Washington, will be placed on display. No admission fee will be charged to the Museum. Here, when the arrangements now under way are completed, will be found portraits of various members of the Lee family, many photographs of General Lee and other Confederate generals, household articles donated by members of his family, letters, papers, and reports connected with General Lee before and after he became president of Washington College.

At its meeting held on October 11 of last year, the Board of Trustees, at the request of the Lee Museum Committee, made an appropriation of \$1,500 to provide for the purchase of a magnificent collection of Lee and Confederate relics owned by a gentleman in New York State, and also for the purchase of display cases to be used in the Museum. The collection referred to has been sold to the University by its owner, Mr. E. Titus Black, at about half its real value, and Mr. Black is also making a number of donations to the Museum since the purchase of his collection. He is a New Yorker by birth, but is much interested in Confederate history and is anxious to have his collection remain intact in some Southern institution, where it will be available for historical and research purposes during many years to come.

Recently, Dr. W. P. Nye, a retired dentist of Radford, Va., and a Confederate veteran, has given to the University a very valuable collection of Confederate and Indian relics. The Confederate relics will be added to the Museum collection and the Indian relics will be placed on display elsewhere in the University. Dr. Nye is not an alumnus of Washington and Lee, but voluntarily, and without solicitation, has given his collection to the University with no restrictions, because of his admiration for General Lee and the institution over which the latter presided for five years.

Late last spring, Dr. George Bolling Lee, of New York City, grandson of General Lee and a member of the Board of Trustees of the University, sent as a loan to the Lee Museum a leather trunk which had belonged to General Lee and which contained many of the most valuable and cherished of the family relics. Many of these articles will be placed on display in the basement of the chapel when the necessary equipment has been installed. The contents of the trunk consisted of a clock, several books, handkerchiefs, a razor, a watch, spoons, and other objects, all owned by General Lee; a linen suit worn by him, two locks of his hair, a pair of pistols which had once been the property of George Washington, General Lee's commission as lieutenant colonel in the United States army, a pair of his epaulets, etc.

At the present time the Committee needs the earnest and enthusiastic coöperation of all friends of the University especially in its work of getting donations to the Museum. There are still living a number of men who attended Washington and Lee when General Lee was its president. There are others who know of the existence of relics, papers, documents, and the like pertaining to General Lee and the Confederacy, or to George Washington. Any such articles will be gladly received, either as loans or gifts, and prompt acknowledgment to the donors or lenders will be made.

Address the writer at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

A GOOD FRIEND.—Sending two new subscriptions with his order for renewal for 1928, Comrade R. A. Hemphill, of Atlanta, Ga., says: "May you live long and prosper; yes, as long as there is a Confederate veteran or descendant of a veteran living to read your sacred pages."

### THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA.

BY MRS. JANIE ADGER GLASSELL, SHREVEPORT, LA.

In the September number of the VETERAN appeared an article on the burning of Columbia which carried the statement by General Sherman that the city was burned by Wade Hampton's setting fire to cotton to prevent its falling into the hands of the Yankee army. It may be that he did burn some cotton to save it from the Yankees, but one thing I know, and that is that General Sherman's officers set fire to homes in Columbia.

I know of two instances where the buildings were set on fire by such officers. The first I shall mention was the home of my grandfather's sister, Mrs. Agnes Adger Law, a widow, whose lovely home was on one of the best streets in Columbia. She had a niece living with her, who, with her young infant, only a few days old, occupied an upstairs bedroom. As there were no men in the house, my aunt sent for General Sherman and asked him to put two officers in the house for protection. He granted her request and put the officers in charge. My aunt invited them to sit down to a bountiful supper. When the meal was ended they picked up the lighted candles from the table, and, when she asked what they intended doing, they laughed and said, "Well, ~~my~~ ~~man~~, we will show you what we will do," and holding up the lighted candles they set fire to all the window curtains. My aunt just had time to get her niece and young baby downstairs and out of the burning house to safety. My aunt, being seventy-four years old and delicate, after wandering the streets, exposed to the wind, caught a dreadful cold from which she never recovered. She finally found shelter that night in the theological seminary. I will give you a few lines from her obituary which I read yesterday in my father's family Bible:

"Thus has passed from earth to heaven a mother in Israel. Her hospitable mansion, like its owner, is in ruins and dust, and its mistress cruelly driven from her burning home into the streets of a burning city, alone and sick, to find shelter where she most deserved it, in the halls of that seminary so liberally endowed by her. From its doors, after great suffering borne with exemplary patience, she was carried tenderly by the students, as if a mother, and laid in her grave, the last services being conducted by a professor who had been her friend for thirty-six years."

I can tell of another instance related to me by an old lady, who at that time was a girl attending school in a convent just out of the city. The Mother Superior sent for General Sherman and talked with him, expecting some consideration, as she had been a schoolmate of his sister in a Kentucky convent years before. So General Sherman promised to send some of his officers out to protect the convent property. After having supper—it seems they always ate before burning—they took candles up into the tower and set the building on fire. The nuns and pupils fled into the woods, where they spent the whole night.

Gen. Wade Hampton may have burned cotton, but Gen. Tecumseh Sherman and his officers set fire to the homes of Columbia, which were filled with old women, children, and helpless babes.

My grandfather lived in Fairfield District, S. C., fifty miles above Columbia, but as he was in feeble health, he, with his family, was spending some months on his plantation in Louisiana, so his home "Albion" in South Carolina was vacant when Sherman passed on his march to the sea. Old "Uncle Enoch," the carriage driver, was left in charge of the place, and when he learned that the soldiers were almost there, burning houses as they came, he hardly had time to take down

the family portraits and bury them in the woods. Everything else was burned with the house, and the soldiers carried the handsome rosewood piano into the yard and filled it with corn to feed the horses.

After the war my grandfather had the portraits brought to Louisiana, where to-day they hang on the walls of my home, oil portraits of three generations of the Adger family saved by the faithful old slave. The family of this old slave did not leave our plantation after the negroes were given their freedom, but most of them lived and died on our plantation, Carolina Bluff, and only last week a nephew of "Uncle Enoch," who was always called "Uncle Noah Adger," passed away on a neighboring plantation, after a long life of over ninety years, and was brought back and laid to rest in the old plantation graveyard, near the grave of his old aunt, who has on the marble slab over her grave—

"JANE ADGER, AGED 102 YEARS, WHO FAITHFULLY AND LOVINGLY SERVED FIVE GENERATIONS OF THE ADGER FAMILY."

"BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE."

## IN TRIBUTE TO THE GALLANT PELHAM.

Near Elkwood, Va., standing by the Lee Highway, one of Virginia's most traveled thoroughfares, is a small monument dedicated to Maj. John Pelham, of Alabama, whose glorious service in the artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia brought forth General Lee's tribute to "the gallant Pelham."

This monument is the gift of George E. Douglas, a merchant and farmer living near Elkwood, now an elderly man, who has grown up in the heart of Virginia made historic by the battle fields of the War between the States. He has made a study of these fields of carnage, and his desire to honor the Southern heroes prompted him to raise this stone to the memory of Maj. John Pelham, who was killed at the battle of Kelley's Ford, which is near the site of the monument. Alabama furnished many brave men in this and later wars, but none braver than Pelham, a mere youth, whose name is honored wherever brave men come together.

The shaft stands on a corner of the grounds of the Douglas home, on the highway, approximately marking the spot where the cavalcade bearing the unconscious form of Major Pelham reached the highway on its way to Culpeper the evening after the battle. The base of the monument was made from a bowlder taken from the battle field of Kelley's Ford, and near the spot where he fell, according to eye-witnesses. On this stands a granite column, six feet high, bearing these inscriptions:

"IN MEMORY OF MAJOR JOHN PELHAM,  
BORN, SEPTEMBER 7, 1843,  
MORTALLY WOUNDED, MARCH 17, 1863,  
NEAR KELLEY'S FORD, VA."

On another face is this:

"LIKE MARSHAL NEY,  
ONE OF THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE."

On the obverse:

ERECTED BY GEORGE E., AND HIS WIFE, LENORE DOUGLAS,  
1926.

The Pelham Chapter, U. D. C., of Birmingham, Ala.—the only Chapter in the great organization bearing the name of the young hero—was selected by Mr. Douglas for the honor

of caring for this memorial through the years to come, to whom he turned it over by deed of gift, and whose privilege it will be to see that it is ever protected and given loving care. This Chapter had the handsome bronze tablet suitably inscribed and placed on the monument.

On October 29, the dedication ceremonies took place, with the Culpeper Chapter, U. D. C., in charge of general arrangements. After a bountiful picnic lunch, the exercises were carried out. Hon. Henry B. Steigall, member of Congress from Alabama, had been delegated by the governor of Alabama to represent the people of that State on the occasion, and his address was most eloquent. Mr. Douglas made the speech of presentation, and the monument was accepted for the Birmingham Chapter by Hon. George Huddleston, of Alabama, Representative in Congress. The veil was drawn by Miss Edith Burgess, a student at the University of Virginia. Randall's beautiful poem, "The Dead Cannoneer," was impressively given by Capt. Tom Hooper, and others contributed their part to the interest of the occasion.

An honored guest of the occasion was Mrs. Emma Pelham Hank, of Richmond, with her three little daughters, and other members of the Pelham family were there from Alabama. The only survivor known of Pelham's Battery is Robert M. Mackall, who was also in attendance, and other Confederate veterans were there to pay tribute to their gallant comrade of the sixties.

John Pelham was born near Alexandria, Calhoun County, Ala., September 14, 1838, the third son of Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson Pelham. He entered the West Point Academy in 1856, from which he resigned a few days before he was due to graduate in order to join the Confederate army. Major Pelham's record in the Confederate army is one of the brightest in a galaxy of brilliant records, and his name will grow with the years. His achievements were—and will continue to be—the subject of thought and discussion by all men who admire courage and ability, displayed to so marked an extent by Major Pelham.

"The Gallant Pelham" met a gallant death in the battle of Kelley's Ford, Va., on March 17, 1863. His body was returned to his native Alabama and rests in the cemetery at Jacksonville.

"His eyes had glanced over every battle field of the war from Manassas to his death, and he was, with a single exception, a brilliant actor in all. The memory of the gallant Pelham has many manly virtues, his noble nature and purity of character are enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him. His record has been bright and spotless, his career brilliant and successful. He fell the noblest sacrifice on the altar of his country, to whose service he had dedicated his life from the beginning of the war."

Gen. Robert E. Lee said: "I mourn the loss of Major Pelham. I had hoped that a long career of usefulness was before him. He was stricken down in the midst of both, and before he could receive the promotion which he had richly won."

"The gallant Pelham, and that from Lee was worth more than any rank in any army, more valuable than any title of nobility or any badge of any other," said Morris Schaff, of the Union Army, in "The Spirit of Old West Point."

The Birmingham *News* pays this tribute: "The sureness with which Pelham framed, the celerity with which he executed his plans, his unrivalled capacity in discerning the enemy's most vulnerable point, and his marvelous skill in smashing it, made of him, young though he was, to the Army of Northern Virginia what Desaix, the boy-general, was to the little Corsican. Like his infantry rival of the French army,