

Linda Malone

From: "David Moore" <demoore2001@msn.com>
To: <fgr13@msn.com>
Cc: "David Moore" <demoore2001@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2004 11:13 AM
Subject: Oscar F. Chapel, 12th SC

Ms. Linda Malone,

I am doing research for the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia in regards to a Civil War relic that was donated to the museum in 1896. The relic is a Berdan Sharpshooter knapsack that originally belonged to a Federal sharpshooter.

At the Battle of Jones Farm (September 30, 1864), Oscar F. Chapel (12th South Carolina) picked up this knapsack that had been abandoned by a Federal soldier. Oscar carried the knapsack through the final days of war and on to Hart Prison, New York. He was eventually paroled and returned to South Carolina....still in possession of the knapsack. In 1896 the knapsack was donated to the Confederate Relics Room with a tag explaining when and where the knapsack was acquired.

I have been providing the state museum with documents and maps related to the Battle of Jones Farm. We would like to find the final resting place of Oscar.

Oscar F. Chapel (or)
Oscar F. Chapell

(muster records were often misspelled)

He served with the 12th South Carolina, McGowen's Brigade. He was recruited or enlisted in the Winnsboro area of Fairfield County and may very well be buried there. Any information you may be able to provide on Oscar or his final resting place would be greatly appreciated. If you have information related to the cemetery and its location, this would aid us greatly.

Thank you,
Dr. David Moore
North Georgia College & State University

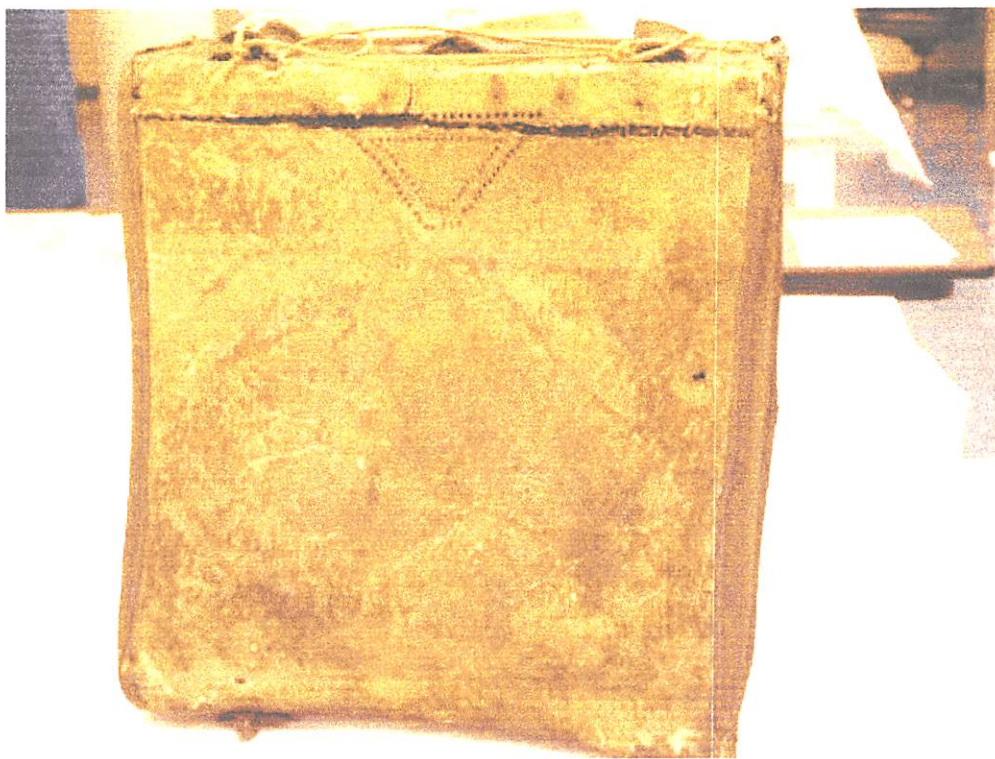
Linda Malone

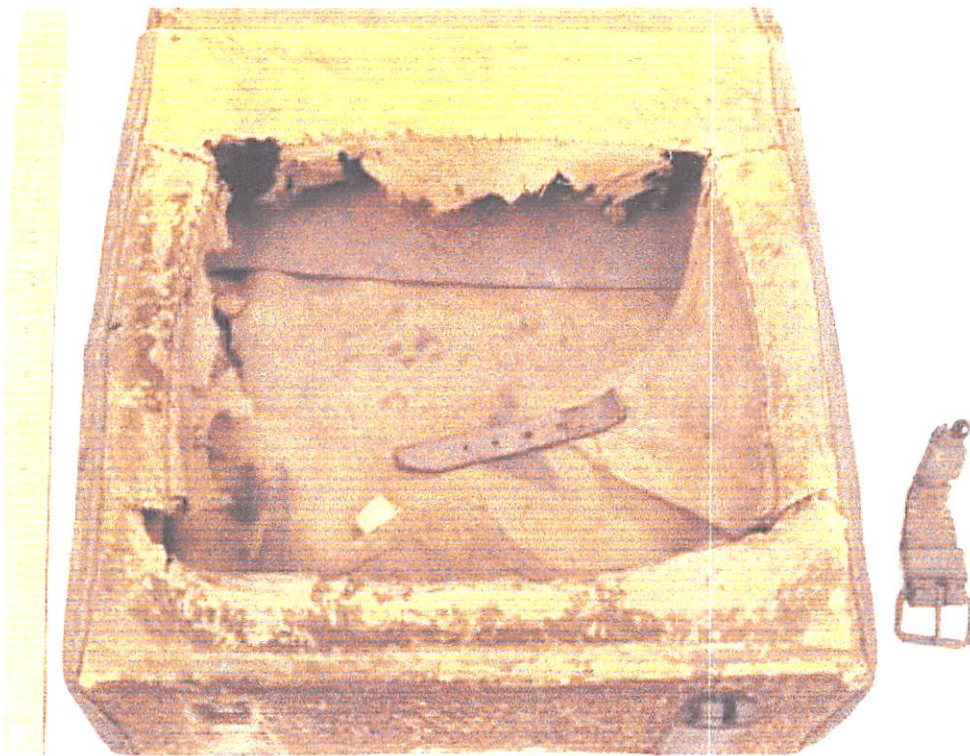
From: "David Moore" <demoore2001@msn.com>
To: "Linda Malone" <fgr13@msn.com>
Cc: "David Moore" <demoore2001@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 2:12 PM
Attach: Knapsack1_JPEG.jpg; Knapsack2_JPEG.jpg; Knapsack3_JPEG.jpg; Stencil_JPEG.jpg
Subject: Knapsack Photos

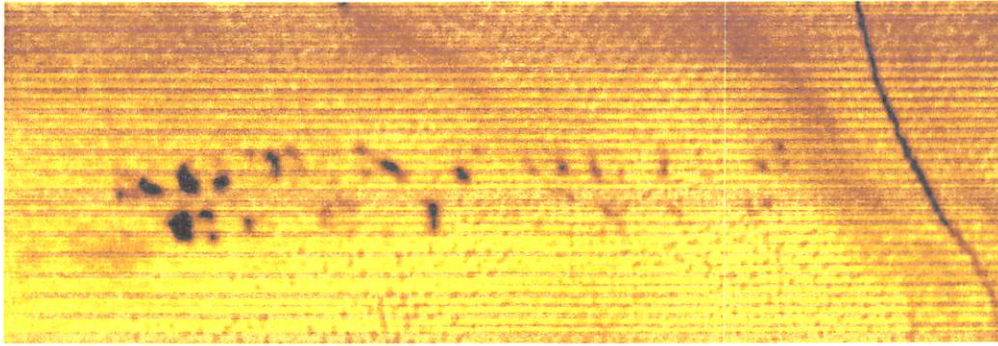
Linda,

Here are the images of the knapsack. I have also attached the image of the stencil from the inside of the knapsack....it is not very clear and requires some infrared photography to bring it out.

David







Re_ Oscar F_ Chappell

From: "David Moore" <demoore2001@msn.com>
To: "Linda Malone" <fgr13@msn.com>
Subject: Re: Oscar F. Chappell
Date: Saturday, April 03, 2004 1:52 PM

Linda,

This is most wonderful news. Your help with this project is most appreciated and will honor the memory of Oscar Chappell. The South Carolina Museum is working on the conservation of this knapsack. Sarah Wooten is the manager of the collection and she has received many of the documents I have been working on.

I would like to share with you what I have found, and most importantly, the story behind the knapsack. Attached you will find three jpeg images of the knapsack.

This knapsack is a Prussian design worn by the Berdan Sharpshooters and maybe, Michigan Sharpshooters. Most of the Union knapsacks were made of tarred canvas. The Prussian design is made of hair-covered cow hide and was considered to be more comfortable to wear.

I will be sending a series of e-mails containing maps and information about the Battle of Jones Farm. When the knapsack was donated to the museum (1896-1904), the only information provided was a tag containing the following:

O.F. Chappell

Taken at the Battle of Jones Farm

This knapsack remained in the collection for many years and was misidentified as a Seminole knapsack from the Seminole Wars. A member of the Berdan Sharpshooters Association was the first to correctly identify the style of this knapsack from the Civil War.

Inside is a stencil label of the Union soldier who originally owned the knapsack.....but, the stencil is worn and will require some special forensic photography to bring out the letter details. We are working on this.....in fact, a NASA engineer who specializes in this photographic work is providing professional assistance.

I have been doing the historic research behind the knapsack and I feel fairly confident that we have identified the battle and location where the knapsack was found by Oscar. The Battle of Jones Farm occurred on September 30, 1864.....between Confederate lines of entrenchment, just Southwest of Petersburg. The Union force had captured Fort Archer and was headed towards the second line of entrenchments in a disorderly manner. The North Carolina and South Carolina units drove the Union force into a retreat. The Confederates collected 1000 rifles, knapsacks, blankets and other equipment.

At this battle, Oscar was 17 years of age.....a young soldier. He picked up this knapsack and carried it with him until the Spring of 1865. He was captured and taken to Harts Prison in New York.....along with the knapsack. Following his imprisonment, he returned to South Carolina with this trophy.

I am very pleased to have made contact with you. I have been working hard on this project for quite a while now and it is most wonderful to know that the Chappell family still lives in the area. It seems as though the knapsack has taken on a life of its own.....the focus is being fruitful and this relic will have great importance to the museum. Call it weird or spiritually guided, the memory of Oscar Chappell is alive and well.

The photographs of Oscar will add much to our efforts. I am working closely with the collection manager, and anything you send will be given great care. The goal is to have a complete story behind the Knapsack....both North & South.

Re_ Oscar F_ Chappell

Thank you for your efforts,
Dr. David Moore
North Georgia College & State University

Home Phone: 770-586-5566

Address:

164 Johns Bluff
Auburn, Ga 30011

----- Original Message -----

From: Linda Malone

To: demoore2001@msn.com

Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 1:08 PM

Subject: Oscar F. Chappell

Mr. Moore,

I have found a lot of information on Oscar F. Chappell. His middle name is Fitzland. I have also come across some pictures of him at the age of 7 years, 17 years in his confederate uniform and as a elderly man at a reunion in Jacksonville, FL May 1914. He is wearing a banner with the southern cross on it. I also found where he lived and the house. This house is still standing and as a matter of fact there is a Chappell still living in the house. The reason I know this is because he and his wife are friends of mine.

Please send me a mailing address so that I can mail this information to you or the State Museum.

Linda Malone

Fairfield Archives & History