

PREFACE

For more than one hundred years, there has been complete confusion about the fate of a wagon train of money (mostly gold) that was robbed in the Chennault Crossroads area of Lincoln County, Georgia, near the end of the "War Between the States".

I became interested in the incident, and was determined to unravel the mystery. After more than two years of research, I came into possession of some previously unpublished writings, and some little publicized writings that have solved the mystery.

The reason for the confusion was that there were two, not one wagon train of money. One contained the remains of the Confederate treasury; the other contained moneys belonging to Virginia banks. Both treasures left Richmond, Virginia, on the same train on the night of April 2, 1865.

On that date, President Jefferson Davis decided to move the seat of government out of Richmond to avoid capture by General Grant's advancing army. The Richmond bankers decided they should evacuate their bank funds for the same reason. They asked for, and were granted permission to attach their group and treasure to the military train for protection. They traveled together to Washington,

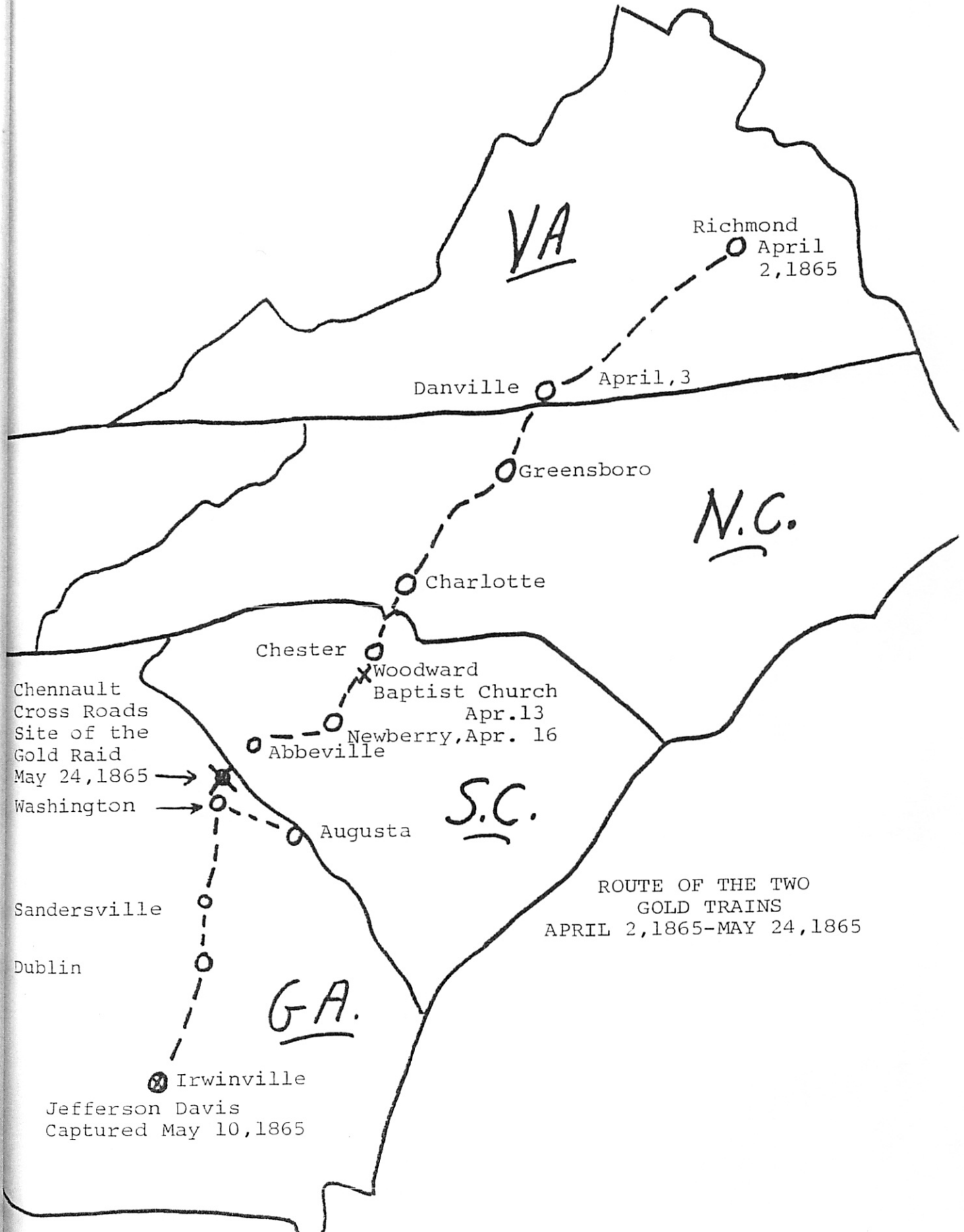
Georgia, where they separated. The Confederate Treasury train continued its southwesterly flight. The "Bank Treasure Train" remained in Washington, Georgia, for nearly a month. Today, one of the heavy metal chests used to hold a portion of the money is on display in the Washington, Georgia, library. On May 24, 1865, with the war essentially over, they loaded the bank treasure into five wagons, and headed back to Richmond.

At the end of the first day's travel, they had gone about fifteen miles. They camped that night in the animal lot in front of the home of the Reverend Dionysious Chennault. This fine old ante bellum home is still in excellent condition, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Watson Prater.

Some time during the night, the guards were surprised, tied up, and the treasure pillaged. A portion of the money (\$110,000) was recovered from some of the raiders.

This book covers the flight of the two treasure trains, their eventual fate, and the years of legal action required to repatriate the portion of the bank funds that was recovered.

It is hoped the details contained here will clarify the situation surrounding the two treasure trains. In the past, facts concerning the two trains have been so intertwined that a confused single story has been the result.



VA

Richmond
April
2, 1865

Danville April, 3

Greensboro

N.C.

Charlotte

Chester

Woodward
Baptist Church
Apr. 13

Chennault
Cross Roads
Site of the
Gold Raid
May 24, 1865 →

Abbeville

Newberry, Apr. 16

Washington →

S.C.

Augusta

Sandersville

Dublin

ROUTE OF THE TWO
GOLD TRAINS
APRIL 2, 1865-MAY 24, 1865

G.A.

Irwinville

Jefferson Davis
Captured May 10, 1865

THE FATE OF THE TWO CONFEDERATE WAGON TRAINS OF GOLD

On Sunday morning, April 2, 1865, President Jefferson Davis attended services at St. Paul's Church in Richmond, Virginia. During the service, a messenger came down the aisle to the President's pew, and placed a written message in Mr. Davis' hand. After reading the message, the President rose, picked up his hat, and quietly left the church. He went immediately to the executive offices of the Confederacy, and called together the heads of departments to give to them the news he had just received. It was a telegraph message from General Robert E. Lee, advising that Richmond was no longer tenable, and that it would without a doubt soon fall into the hands of the Union Army. They made plans to evacuate the staff, the cabinet (except Secretary of War General John C. Breckenridge), all of his official and private family, executive papers, and the money in the Confederate Treasury.

President Davis still hoped that Lee could unite with General Joseph E. Johnston, and weather the terrible storm. He hoped if that failed, he would be able to cut through the scattered remnants of Confederate troops, join those beyond the Mississippi, and re-establish the Confederacy that they had so valiently defended for four years.

Mr. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, appointed Captain William H. Parker C.S. Navy, Commander of the naval training ship Patrick Henry, to take his midshipmen and act as guard and escort to the Presidential train.¹ Captain Parker detailed

ten midshipment to destroy the Patrick Henry which was lying in the James River. He took the remaining sixty midshipment to be the guard detail. General Wheless, who was at that time paymaster of the Patrick Henry, was also to accompany the treasury funds.² Bank officials from the various banks in Richmond quickly decided that the monies from the banks should also be evacuated to a safe place. They asked, and were given permission to attach themselves and their treasure to the Presidential train for protection. The bank monies were accompanied by the bank officers. They were kept separate and apart from the treasury funds at all times.

The treasury funds totaled \$327,022.90 in gold and silver coins, gold and silver bullion, and an unspecified amount (millions) of Confederate paper money. In addition there were boxes of valuable jewelry that had been contributed to be converted to finance the war effort. The bank funds totaled about \$450,000. The bulk and weight of the Treasury funds was in Mexican dollars, packed in kegs about the size of those used for nails. The gold was chiefly in double eagles, in sacks of \$5,000 each, and packed in regular coin boxes, \$25,000 to a box. In addition to these there were silver bricks, gold ingots, and nuggets, and a lot of copper cents.³

All of the above was loaded into a special train, and sometime after midnight, began its fateful flight southward to elude the enemy. The train arrived in Danville, Virginia, late in the afternoon of April 3. The treasure was not unloaded from the cars at Danville except to make some payments for the use of the government.

General Breckenridge arrived about April 6. The government offices were partially reorganized and opened. Here, the news of General Lee's surrender was received on April 10. On that day, the train moved farther southward to Greensboro, North Carolina, which was the headquarters of General G. P. Beauregard's little army.⁴

At Greensboro, \$39,000 was left as a military chest for the forces in that area. The train remained there for a few days. During that time, General Johnston reported in for a general conference.

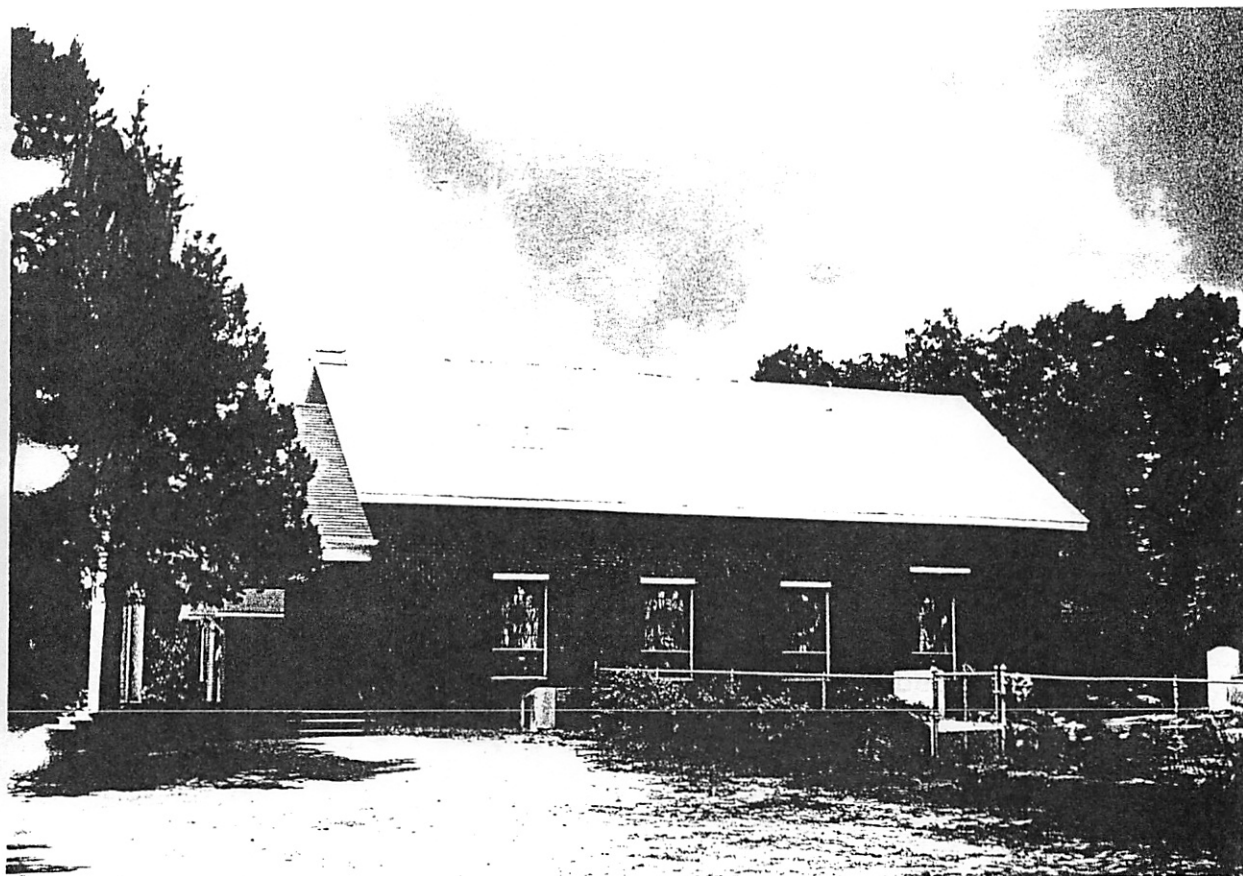
Because Union Cavalry under General Stoneman was raiding southwest of Greensboro, and had destroyed railroad tracks at several points, Captain Parker requisitioned and received from the Commissary Department, a full train of wagons and ambulances sufficient to transport the entire operation, provided it became necessary. All of this was loaded onto the railway train, and they proceeded to Charlotte, N. C.

When the train arrived in Charlotte, both the Confederate and bank monies were placed in the mint, where they remained for a week. During this stop they learned of President Lincoln's assassination.

While in Charlotte, a large accession was made to the Cavalry force. This included General Basil W. Duke with his brigade, General Vaughn and some other detachments from Southwest Virginia, General Ferguson, and scattering battalions, making up quite a full force. These were all taken in charge by General Breckenridge. *ABOUT 3,000 TOTAL.*

At Charlotte, an incident happened that caused an interesting turn of events later. Captain Parker replenished his stores by an order from the Honorable S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, upon the Naval Storekeeper there. Colonel John Taylor Wood found a lot of blue navy shirts among the stores. He suggested taking some to provide a change of clothes to those who might need it. He was wearing one when the Jefferson Davis party was captured at Irwinville, Georgia. In the dim light, Colonel Wood was able to pass through the Union Cavalry, being mistaken for one of their own.

When the train left Charlotte, the Cavalry force under General Breckenridge also headed South on the same line toward Chester, S. C. Mr. J. A. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury was quite ill and was left near the Catawba River.



WOODWARD BAPTIST CHURCH (1976)

Present building built in 1830. Here the train camped on the night of April 13, 1865. Mrs. Davis and the ranking officers slept inside the church.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER.

At Chester, South Carolina, they learned that the Union Cavalry had destroyed the rails for a distance toward Newberry S. C. The contents of the rail cars were loaded into the wagons which had been acquired in Greensboro.

By nightfall, they had proceeded about six miles from Chester to Woodward Baptist Church, and there they camped for the night. Captain Parker slept in the pulpit. The following morning they resumed their flight, however, heavy rains had turned the road into a quagmire. The wagons were heavily laden, and under these conditions it became necessary for everyone to get out and walk. At this point Mrs. Davis walked five miles through the mud, carrying one of her children.

On April 16, the exhausted band reached Newberry, S. C., and learned that the railroad was in tact from there to Abbeville, S. C. The wagon train was loaded aboard railway cars and they proceeded to Abbeville. When the train arrived in Abbeville, the city officials refused to house the treasure for fear that its presence would bring on an attack from the Union Cavalry who was known to be raiding nearby at Pendleton, S. C.

The Presidential Party arrived in Abbeville a short time after the treasure train. A cabinet meeting was held, and the Honorable John H. Reagan was appointed acting Secretary of the Treasury. Mrs. Davis, her children, and Mrs. Davis' sister ^{Miss} Mrs. Howell remained in Abbeville

for a while as guests of Mrs. Armistead Burt in the house now known as the Burt Mansion, or the Stark House.

The treasure train was in great danger of capture by Federal troops in the Abbeyville area, so it was once again forced to flee. Again, it was loaded into wagons, and this time the destination was Washington, Georgia. They crossed the Savannah River on a pontoon bridge that had been recently built by the civilians on both sides of the river to aid the returning Confederate soldiers in their trek back home on foot.

At Washington, Georgia, they realized the danger of capture by Federal troops was increasing daily. After deliberating one day, Captain Parker loaded the treasure onto a railway train and headed for Augusta, Georgia. There the danger was even greater. Without unloading, the train was turned around and sent back to Washington, Georgia. With dangers of capture growing daily, Captain Parker decided to load the treasure onto wagons and go back to Abbeyville to place the train in the immediate charge of President Davis and his escort which was moving southwest on the line of his own journey.

They arrived back in Abbeville on April 28. This time he was allowed to unload the treasure, and it was stored in a warehouse on the public square. On the way back to Abbeville, they met Mrs. Davis and her party who were on their way Southward.

At 10:00 a. m. on May 2, Mr. Davis and his escort rode into Abbeville. The escort consisted of several of his cabinet, and four skeleton brigades of Cavalry (Duke's Dibrell's, Ferguson's, and Vaughn's). Upon the order of Mr. Reagan, Captain Parker delivered the treasury to General Basil Duke at the Railroad Station.

By order of Mr. Mallory, and without the knowledge of Mr. Davis, Captain Parker immediately disbanded his little command of midshipmen, thanked them for their service, and returned to Virginia.

On the afternoon of May 2, the treasure was loaded onto wagons, and started back toward Washington, Georgia, again.

Captain Micajah H. Clark of Clarksville, Tennessee, in an interview in the Louisville Courier Journal of January 13, 1882, related the following details.

"General Breckenridge arrived in Washington, Georgia, an hour or so after President Davis left. My recollection of his (General Breckenridge's) statement was that during the night of the 3rd, en route from Abbeville, S. C., to

Washington, Georgia, he found the Cavalry and train at a halt, resting. Stopping, he learned from the officers that the men were dissatisfied at the position of affairs; that they were guarding a train which could not be carried safely much farther; the Federal Cavalry were known to be in full force not a great distance off; the destination and disposition of their own forces was an uncertain one; their paper money was worthless for their needs; that they might not reach Washington, Georgia, with it, etc. A crowd gathered around, and General Breckenridge made them a little speech, appealing to their honor as Confederate soldiers not to violate the trust reposed in them, but to remain Southern soldiers and gentlemen; and that when they reached Washington, Georgia, with the train, fair payment should be made.

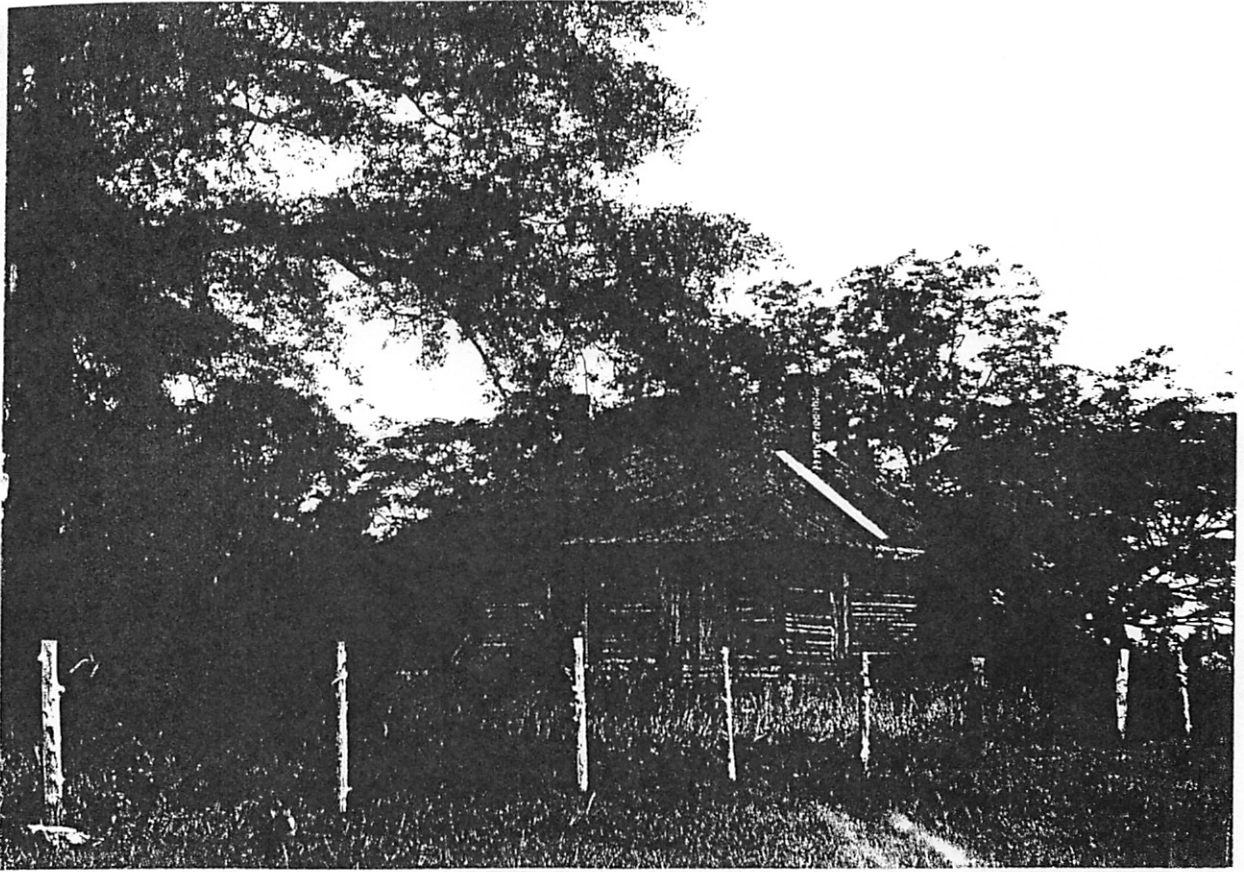
The men responded frankly, saying they proposed to violate no trust; they would guard it, but expressed what they considered due to them in the matter; and as they would be paid some money in Washington, Ga., and no one could tell what would happen before they reached Washington, there was no good reason to delay.

General Breckenridge replied that if they wished an instant compliance with his promise, he would redeem it at

once, and ordered up the train to the house near which he had stopped, and had the treasury wagons unloaded; the quartermasters being ordered to make out their payrolls when a certain amount was counted out and turned over to the proper officers. The wagons were then re-loaded, and the route was taken up to Washington, Georgia. The boys got \$26.25 a piece. Enough, they hoped to take them through." General Breckenridge got the same amount, \$26.25.

MAY 3, 1865

The house referred to was that of Mr. David Moss. An eye witness account of the incident was written in 1925 by Mrs. Mary House Lane. Her next to the oldest sister married David Moss. The land of her father, Leeston House, adjoined that of David Moss. In fact the Moss home was the first house west of the pontoon bridge which was constructed across the Savannah River just below the confluence of the Broad and Savannah Rivers.



MOSS HOME (1976), LINCOLN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Used by GENERAL BRECKENRIDGE on the night of May 3, 1865 to pay off troops.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER.

I later learned the above house was not the original house referred to; that house burned in 1866. This house was built on the original site. They were too "broke" to rebuild a fine home like the original which looked very much like the Chennault home shown on page 17A.

Mrs. Lane related that the army took over the house except for the bedrooms. Many boxes were unloaded from seven wagons and stacked in their living room. The Paymaster paid off the unit commanders out the living room window. After the army had gone, they began cleaning up the litter and empty boxes left behind. Under all the trash, they found one wooden box that had not been opened. They did not open it until the negro women who had been helping with the clean-up had gone to their quarters. Behind closed doors, they opened the box. Mrs. Lane described the incident as follows:

"I prised the top off, and thought it was only filled with blank sheets of paper, but it was in printed letters on the margin of business transactions pertaining to the war. I took out a number of sheets, and after removing the last one, there was a layer of tissue paper. I felt somethin hard. I tore a small hole in the tissue paper, and found it was silver. My sister was very much excited about the find, and told me to replace the top and be quiet about it until father came in. She begged her little girl not to tell anyone what she had seen.

My sister was in very feeble health, and very easily excited. I placed the top back on the box. In a short time father came in, and we told him of our discovery. He told us to open the box and to take it all out. A

wonderful sight met our eyes. There was the most gorgeous jewelry of gold and diamonds and small silverware. In examining the wonderful find, we could tell that some of it was private property, or might have been, as some of it had been used quite a bit."

The contents of the box eventually got them into trouble. They would only examine the jewelry behind closed doors at night. They assume a former slave must have peeped under the door, or through an opening in the drapes and learned of their windfall. A few days later, a Captain Sedon and a squad of Union soldiers came to the Moss home and demanded the box of jewelry. Mrs. Lane described the volume of jewelry in the box as "about the size of a five gallon can". They were forced at gun point to give up the valuables.

The following day, May 4, the Wagon Train pulled up about a mile northwest of Washington, Georgia. There Judah P. Benjamin said goodbye to the group, and turned south toward his home.

Jefferson Davis made his headquarters at the home of Dr. Robertson. Others profuse in their hospitality were General A. R. Lawton's (Quartermaster General) family, General E. P. Alexander, and many others.

On May 4, Captain Micajah H. Clark was appointed "Acting Treasurer". Jefferson Davis' signature on that document was the last official signature he affixed to any paper as President.

On that same day, Captain Clark rode out to General Basil Duke's camp, presented his authority from President Davis, and General Duke turned the treasury over to him. Captain Clark selected the shade of a large elm tree, as the "Treasury Department", and began his duties as Acting Treasurer, C. S. Captain Clark burned millions of dollars of Confederate paper money in the presence of General Breckenridge and Mr. Reagan.

It is not known on which trip through Washington, the bank treasure was removed from the "Treasury Train", and placed in a bank vault in Washington. It remained there while the "Treasury Train" moved on. The story of that treasure train, and what happened to it will be covered separately.

The last payment in Washington was of \$86,000 in gold coin and gold bullion to a trusted officer of the Navy (JAMES A. SEMPLE). His receipt was taken for its transmission out of the Confederacy to be held for the Treasury Department.

The "Treasury Train" joined President Davis' party (consisting of his staff, Captain Given Campbell, with twelve of his men, also a few others) near Sandersville, Georgia. There the President had heard disturbing news from Mrs. Davis' party. They feared attempts by stragglers to steal their horses. Mr. Davis decided to take his staff and join Mrs. Davis' party. Both of the Davis parties had abandoned anything on wheels, so the "Treasury Train" could not continue with them.

Before parting, Captain Clark paid \$1500 each to Colonel John Taylor Wood, Colonel William Preston Johnson, Colonel F. B. Lubbock, and Colonel C. E. Thorburn. \$300 was also paid to Captain Campbell. He also went to Judge Reagan with a bag containing \$3,500 in gold, and asked that he take it in his saddle bags as an additional fund in case of accidents or separation. Judge Reagan resisted, saying that he was weighted by some \$2,000 of his own personal funds which he had brought out from Richmond in a belt around his person. After some argument, he agreed to let Captain Clark put it in his saddle bags.

The President's party was captured a few days afterward. After release from prison, several of the party told that

everyone was robbed of all they had, except Colonel Lubbock, who after stout resistance and great risk retained his money, upon which the party subsisted during their long imprisonment in Fort Delaware.⁵

A Recap of the Statement of Captain M. H. Clark

Amount of gold and silver coin and silver bullion in the train when it left Danville	\$327,022.90
Paid out to soldiers at Greensboro.	<u>39,000.00</u>
Turned over to Captain Clark	\$288,022.90
Paid to Major White to pay taoops (specie)	\$108,322.90
Paid to Major Moses to feed returning soldiers (silver bullion)	40,000.00
Paid to a trusted officer of the Navy (gold coin and gold bullion) <i>JAMES A. SEMPLE</i>	86,000.00
Paid four officers near Sandersville (gold)	6,000.00
Paid four men near Sandersville (silver)	40.00

Paid Capt. Campbell	\$ 300.00	
Paid Mr. Reagan near Sandersville (gold)	<u>3,500.00</u>	
		\$244,162.90
Unaccounted for		\$ 43,860.00

When Jefferson Davis was captured near Irwinville, Georgia, on the morning of May 10, 1865, he had no money. Based on the personal writings of Captain Clark, Acting Treasurer, and Mr. John F. Wheless, Paymaster C. S., no money was paid or given to him from the Confederate Treasury.

THE BANK GOLD TRAIN

The "Treasury Train" passed through Washington, Georgia, three times in its frantic effort to evade the ever present Union Cavalry who were raiding on a line parallel to their own escape route. The records are not clear on which trip through Washington, the "Bank Train" was separated from the Treasury Train; however, it was probably on May 4, 1865.

Jefferson Davis, on May 4, 1865, appointed Captain Micajah H. Clark of Clarksville, Tennessee, acting Treasurer of the Confederacy. Captain Clark in an interview in the Louisville Courier Journal of January 13, 1882, spoke as follows:

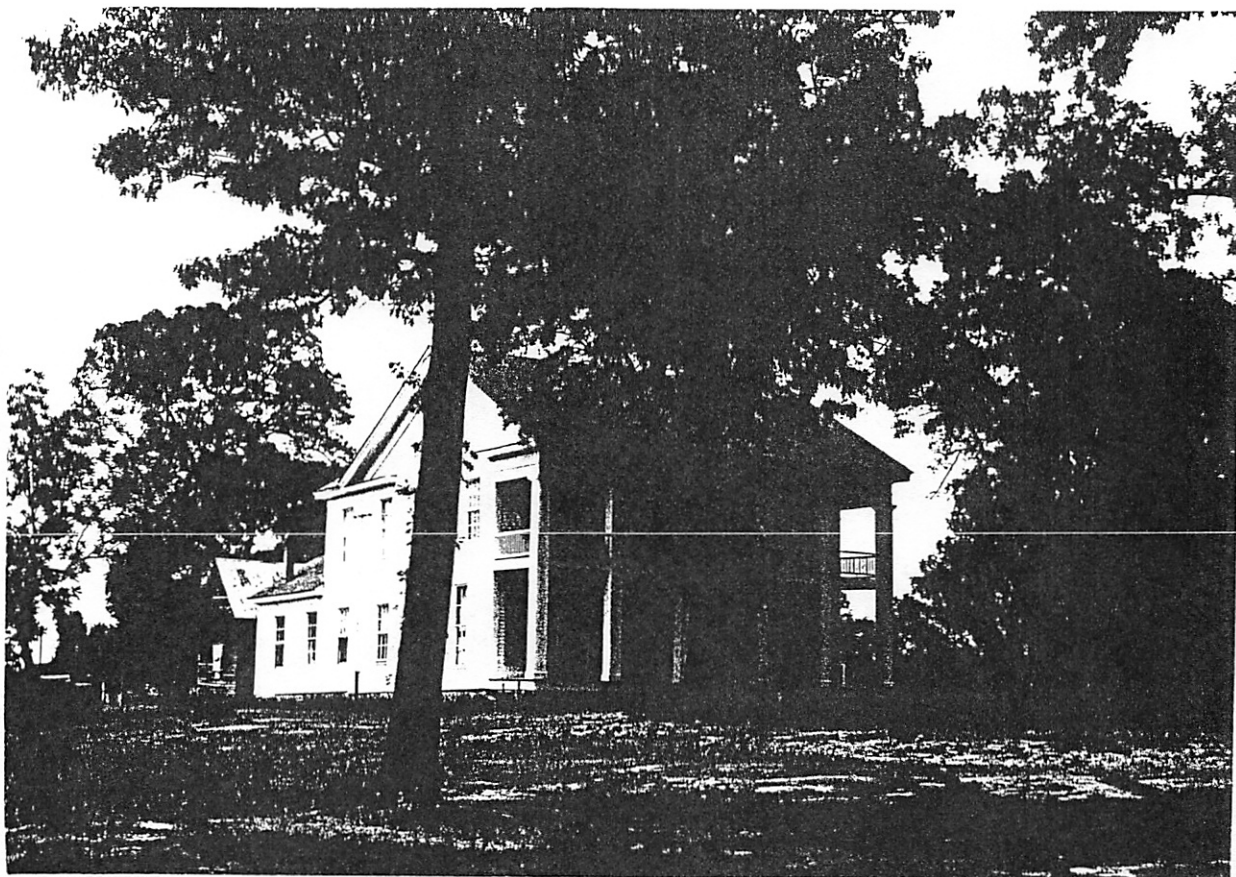
"With the train at Washington, Georgia, was the specie belonging to the Virginia banks, which some time before had been ordered to be turned over to their officers, who had accompanied it out from Richmond, and had never left it; but the proper officer had not been present to make the transfer. It had never been mixed with the Treasury funds, but kept apart and

distinct, and when Acting Secretary (of the Treasury) Reagan ordered the transfer to be made, no handling of specie or accounting was necessary, but merely permission for the cashiers and tellers to take control of their own matters." The bank funds amounted to approximately \$450,000 in specie.

The bank officials placed the money in the vault of the old branch bank of the State of Georgia, which was in the house then occupied by Doctor Robertson, who was cashier of the branch bank."

General Lee had surrendered April 9, and General Joseph E. Johnston on April 26. President Davis was captured on May 10 a few days after he left Washington in his futile flight. The bank tellers probably considered the war was over for all practical purposes, and decided to take the money back to Richmond.

On May 24, the bank funds were loaded into five wagons and covered with canvas that gave them the appearance of apple vendors from North Carolina.⁶ They left Washington about 10 A. M. retracing their steps toward Abbeville, S. C. By nightfall they had reached the home of the Reverend Mr. Dionysius Chennault, about fifteen miles northeast of Washington in Lincoln County. They asked for and received permission to camp near the Chennault home for the night.



THE CHENNAULT HOME (1976), BUILT 1859

Mrs. Davis, her children, and her sister ~~Mrs.~~ Howell spent several days here in early May, 1865. The picture was made from the spot where the gold raid occurred.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER.

They were given the use of a large horse lot, fenced in on all sides with a double gate at one end.⁷ They prepared for the night by drawing their wagons close together in the center of the field, and by stabling their horses in the empty sheds. Across the road and through the woods, campfires were glimmering. Bands of stragglng Confederates were resting here and there, and Union soldiers were passing to and fro.

Sometime during the night, a raiding party surprised the guards and tied them up. No blood was shed, and not a single shot was fired. The gold train was plundered and the guards left tied and helpless.

In the Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. II, number 4, December 1918, page 171, Mr. Otis Ashmore gave the following account of the incident.

*Later founder and publisher
of "The Progressive Farmer".*

"About six o'clock on the peaceful afternoon of May 24, 1865, a trim, little, black-eyed man on horseback with soldierly bearing rode up to my father's home near the quiet village of Lincolnton, Georgia, and called for my half-brother, who only a few days before had returned ragged, footsore and weary from the fateful field of Appomattox. This trim wirery little man was Dr. M_____ of Kentucky, a Confederate soldier, who with many others from the border States was stopping for a time in Georgia, till the dangerous situation at home

would permit him to return. His temporary abode was with one of our neighbors only half a mile away, and he and my half-brother had the fellow feeling and comradeship which four long years of common hardship and dangers develop in the hearts of men. My half-brother had followed Longstreet throughout the entire war, and, after walking almost the whole distance from Appomattox to Georgia, had at last found a welcome at his Georgia home. The fortunes of the Southern people had been swept away, and he, like all the rest of the Confederate soldiers, had received scant pay for his services.

"The two men retired to the edge of the yard and engaged for some time in a low earnest conversation. After a time my half-brother ordered one of the servants to saddle his horse, and went to his room to change his clothes and buckle on his pistols. As he passed through the hall going out, my mother, suspecting that something was wrong, stopped him, and entreated him to tell her where he was going. The times were perilous, the negroes had just been freed, men were desperate, the Ku Klux Klan was secretly forming, and human life itself was little valued. Having failed to evade her entreaties, he frankly told her that the Confederate treasure train would encamp that night at a point about ten miles distant, and that it was the purpose of Dr. M_____

and himself, together with many other Confederate soldiers, to raid the train, overcome the guard, and take the money. They justified themselves in this contemplated act by the argument that the money, which they believed was the property of the Confederate States government now destroyed, rightfully belonged to the Confederate soldiers, who had not been paid for their services, and that if they did not take it that night, the Federal forces, who were scouring the country in every direction, would capture it in a few hours. Whereupon my mother burst into tears, and begged him not to enter upon so dangerous an undertaking, saying that the treasure would be strongly guarded and defended, and that he would be killed. She told him that he had just returned from a dreadful war of four years, and that she could not think of letting him go upon this perilous raid. He finally yielded to these entreaties, and Dr. M_____, much disappointed at this decision, mounted his horse, and lifting his jaunty Confederate cap to us all, galloped off towards the setting sun. I can see him now as he sped away, a gallant knight to my boyish imagination, never to be seen again. That night the treasure train carrying \$450,000 in specie was captured by the raiders, and the sensation produced next day was like an earthquake. The excitement spread with explosive violence, and soon lurid pictures of escaping raiders, pursuing cavalry, bags of hidden gold and silver, and wholesale arrests flashed upon the scene."

It was reported that during the robbery, gold and silver coins flowed ankle deep in the wagons. Men filled bags with the precious metal; they stuffed their pockets, and some tied their trousers at the ankles and filled them with as much money as they could make off with.

The bank officers were able to free themselves the following morning, and found they had been robbed of \$250,000 of the original \$450,000, approximately \$160,000 remained in the wagons. Another \$40,000 was later found.

General E. P. Alexander in the Louisville Courier Journal in 1881 gave the following account:

"They (the bank officers) went back to Danburg (the nearest village) and induced a few armed men to assist them in recovering the funds. The men who had robbed the bankers were overtaken, but no more of the money was secured, as the Danburg men thought the bankers, getting \$40,000, ought to be satisfied. The Richmond gentlemen then came to Washington, and urged me to organize a party of trustworthy young men, and see if the whole amount could not be recaptured.

"I soon had quite a company of boys armed with pistols, and accompanied by Judge Reese, who was to issue the warrants, we started off. Reese had been a Judge during the existence of the Confederacy, and the next morning, fearing he might be persecuted for usurpation, he declined to issue the warrants. We came on a party of the

guerrillas who had about \$80,000 of the money in charge. They said they did not know it was private property; believing it to belong to the Confederacy they thought they were as much entitled to it as any one else, but promised to take us where the remainder was concealed. This \$80,000 was started back under escort, which deposited it in the vault of the old branch bank of the State of Georgia. The only connection that I had in the matter was to go up to Danburg, accompanied by Judge Wm. M. Reese and one of the bank cashiers, to arrest the parties concerned in the raid and bring back the \$80,000 that had been collected.

"I took along five or six ex-Confederate soldiers from Washington as a guard. When we reached Danburg one of the cashiers, who had remained there, advised that we would need a larger force, and we added to the guard some seven or eight citizens of the neighborhood. I arrested five or six raiders. After we had arrested them I sent off all of the guard which I had brought from Washington to arrest another party at a house some distance in our rear, and which we had passed. When we were ready to start back to Washington from Mr. Chennault's house we found that the guard which we had collected about Danburg had been persuaded by friends of the prisoners to leave us, and when I called on them to mount, none of them mounted, and friends of the prisoners, a number of whom had collected,

put arms in their hands, and it was plain that we could not carry them off without a fight. Judge Reese, who accompanied us to represent the law, was of the opinion that he could give no legal authority for the use of forces in carrying out the arrest, as the civil authority of all the state officers was suspended. So, after a conference between him and the bank cashiers, it was decided to release the prisoners on their promise to return what money they could collect. The prisoners asserted that they had raided the train under the impression that the money was the Confederate treasury, but being convinced that it was private property, they were willing to surrender it.

"At the time of this raid it will be remembered that Georgia was under military law. General Wilde, of the Federal Army, who was in charge of this department, had his headquarters in Washington, Ga. A few days after the raid General Wilde sent a detachment of Federal soldiers to the scene to arrest all suspected parties, and to recover, if possible, more of the treasure. Among those arrested were Rev. Dionysius Chennault and his wife, Mr. John N. Chennault, (brother of Dionysius), his wife, his son, Frank, sixteen years old, his daughter, Miss Mary Ann, seventeen years old, and some of the servants. It was thought that since the wagon treasure train had encamped for the night near the homes of the Chennaults they were parties to the raid, and that they probably had some of the money in their possession.

The military party took Dionysius, John and Frank Chenault out into the woods and put them to the most excruciating torture in order to force a confession from them. The writer knew all of the Chennaults personally. Dionysius was a very large man, weighing about three hundred pounds, and Frank weighed at that time about two hundred pounds. The Chennaults were prominent citizens of high character, and Dionysius (or Nish, as he was called) was a local Methodist preacher. These men had their hands tied behind their backs and swung up by the thumbs until their feet were lifted from the ground. John Chenault fainted and came very near dying. However, these and other tortures failed to force a confession. The facts abundantly showed afterwards that the Chennaults knew nothing of the contents of the wagons, and that they did not participate in any way in the raid. The Chennault family were carried to Washington and submitted to the most humiliating treatment during an investigation, which resulted in their complete vindication and release."

The following statement of Mrs. Mary Ann Shumate, formerly Miss Mary Ann Chennault, was obtained from her in 1903 by Miss E. F. Andrews, of Washington, Georgia:

THE TORTURING OF THE CHENNAULT FAMILY

"The following account of the outrages perpetrated upon the Chennault family of Lincoln County by Gen. Wilde, of Massachusetts, in July 1865, is from the personal narrative of Mrs. Mary Ann Chennault Shumate, one of the sufferers, and the only one now living. I give it as nearly as possible in her own words, as related to me. After being written down, the narrative was again revised by Mrs. Shumate and her younger sister, Mrs. Sallie Chennault Ramsey, who vouch for its correctness by signing their names below. April 15th, 1903.

"Eliza Frances Andrews, Historian,
"
"Last Cabinet Chapter, U.D.C.
"Washington, Georgia"

"The reason why the Yankees treated us so badly was because they thought my father and brother were among the Confederate soldiers that charged the wagon train with the money belonging to the Richmond banks, but Pa didn't know anything at all about it. He was in bed asleep at the time. Some of the men that were in it were staying at our house and wanted to wake him up and get his advice, but the others said they were afraid he would try to stop them, and so they wouldn't wake him. There wasn't any

Wilkes County men in it--they were mostly Tennessee and Kentucky men that made the charge, Gen. Vaughn's men were in it, but not the General himself.

"The way they came to be at our house was--you know everybody in those times took in sick and discharged soldiers to house them until the war was over, or they were able to get back to their homes. There were so many Union people in Tennessee and Kentucky that the soldiers from these states couldn't go back home without being arrested. So Pa and Uncle Nish (Mr. Dionysius Chennault) both had their houses full, and most of the neighbors too. We had so many most of the time, that there wasn't room to sleep them in the big house, so we fixed up outhouses and slept them there.

"The men that charged the wagon train didn't know the money belonged to the banks; they thought it was the Confederate treasury, and as they knew the Yankees would take it anyhow, they thought that they, being Confederates, had a better right to it than the people that had come down here to rob us of our property. Gen. Breckinridge had come the night before and camped at Mrs. J. D. Moss's with his cabinet (staff). He had something to do with the Confederate treasury, and had with him a box of jewelry that had been contributed by the women of the South for the building of a gunboat. They gave their bracelets,

necklaces and rings, their jewelry and silverware of all kinds, to help the government, and Gen. Breckinridge brought it from Richmond with the Confederate treasury.

I never saw such a splendid collection of silver and jewels as was in that box. When he went off next morning, he left this box with Mrs. Moss to take care of. She kept it for several weeks, until the Yankees heard of it and came and got it, at the same time they imprisoned us. They took all our own silver and jewelry, too, pretending that we got it from this box. The next night when the bank wagon train came along, the soldiers thought it was the rest of the Confederate treasury, and charged the train because they thought they had as good right to it as anybody else, and they didn't want the Yankees to get hold of it.

"When Gen. Wilde and the Yankees came to Washington, they heard about the money being captured, and Angelina, one of our negroes that grand-ma had raised, and that had nursed ma and all grandma's children, ran off to the Yankees and told them that pa had some of that gold and jewelry. He did have a little money, but it was his own that he had saved up through the war, and ma and Aunt Deasy (Ardesia, Mrs. Dionysius Chennault) had watches and some other trinkets of their own, but it was nothing worth looking at along with the fine things in that box. But Angelina had seen our poor little trinkets and went and told the Yankees that Pa had stole them, and that he knew all about the charging of the train. So Gen. Wilde, he

had oceans of soldiers with him, came out to arrest pa and Uncle Nish. The first thing they did was to kill the house dog, "Jeff Davis". We children were all standing in the window watching to see what was going on, when the dog ran out and barked at them, they all laughed and shouted, "Kill Jeff Davis, Kill Jeff Davis!" Pa hollered and begged them not to kill the dog, but they shot the poor thing dead, and punched him through with their bayonets. They had learned the name even of the dog before they came out, and they made a great laughing and hoorahing when they shot him because they had killed Jeff Davis.

"They then arrested Pa (Mr. John N. Chennault) and brother (Mr. Frank Chennault) and Uncle Nish, and carried them off to the woods to make them tell where the gold was, and hung them up by their thumbs. They tied their hands behind them and hung them up by the thumbs, with their feet off the ground. Brother Frank was not quite 16, but very big for his age, he weighed 200 pounds, so it was awful on him. Pa was forty years old, and never very strong, he fainted under the suffering so dead away that they got scared and thought they had killed him. He never got over it. Their thumbs were all as black as the chimney, when they came back home, and their hands were so black and swelled up that it was a long time before they could use them. They were swung up three times and kept hanging by the watch, counting the

minutes, leaving them up just as long as they could stand it without being killed. They said the pain was so great that after the first time they begged the Yankees to shoot them dead rather than suffer so again. They were kept out in the woods all day and all night and then brought under arrest to Washington.

"They took Tom, Pa's body servant, and hung him up because he wouldn't say Pa had the money. Tom was the son of Angelina, who had caused all the trouble by her lies, but he was as faithful as his mother was mean. Negroes are strange creatures; you can never tell when to trust them and when not. Whenever the Yankees would ask Tom about the money and he said he didn't know, they would holler out, "Hang him up again," and they kept stringing up the poor darkey because he couldn't tell them what he didn't know, and he wouldn't lie like his mother had done and say that Pa had it.

"None of the neighbors came near us; they were afraid of being treated the same way, and they couldn't have done any good.

"While Gen. Wilde had Pa and the rest of them in the woods, some of the soldiers came to the house and began cursing and abusing Ma and the children. The little ones ran away to the fields and stayed hiding out for a day and a night, till the Yankees all left. The youngest, John, was only six months old and his faithful old nurse, Mandy, carried him off to her cabin. Another negro, Mary, took the next younger on her back and carried him over to Mr. Jim Willis's, three miles, wading a creek on the way. Then she made her way to Washington, where Ma had been carried, and waited on her all the time she was kept in prison there. The other children were taken by the negroes to Mr. Jim Barksdale's, who took care of them until the rest of us were set free.

"I was the only one old enough to know what they were about, and before carrying us to Washington, they took Ma and me and Aunt Deasy (Mrs. Dionysius Chennault) and shut us up in a room with Yankees all around to guard it, and forced us to strip off our clothes while Angelina came in and searched us. We cried and tried to cover ourselves, but it was no use to make a fuss, it only made things worse. They didn't find any gold on us but they took the little parcel of gold Pa had in the house, and brought us all to town (Washington, Ga.) and kept me, Ma and Aunt Deasy locked up as prisoners in the jury room at the court house. The court house was full of men that they had arrested about various things. They wouldn't allow us

bring it back to Washington and give it up. A good many others, when they saw how things were going, got uneasy and gave up their share, and so the Yankees got a good deal of it, but there were oceans more of it scattered all over Wilkes and Lincoln counties, besides what was carried off. Some of it was hid about in swamps and woods, some was buried in the ground, and there is no telling how much has been forgotten and not found again.

"It has been so long ago since all these things happened-- I was just 17 then--that my memory of them is not very clear. I hate to think about them, too. The recollection was always so unpleasant that I have tried to put it out of my mind as much as possible, and so there are a great many things that I cannot be perfectly sure about, but what I have told you is a true account to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(Signed)

MARY A. SHUMATE

Great popular indignation was immediately produced by this treatment of the Chennault family, and these cruel and unjust acts served only to intensify sectional feelings and to deepen the shadows of the Reconstruction Period.

As will be seen by the statement of General Alexander a considerable portion of the treasure was recovered, but much of it disappeared with those raiders who were never caught. Dr. M____, the jaunty Kentucky soldier, who galloped so gracefully away from our home the evening before, was in the raid, and we were told that he was last

seen riding hurriedly away from the camp with a large bag of gold across the front of his saddle. He was never caught.

There were many wild rumors that bags of gold were hidden about in the woods by those of the raiders who could not get away with it at once, and there was considerable truth in these reports. One of the prominent citizens of Lincoln County, who took no part in the raid, found about \$10,000 in gold concealed near the scene and carried it home with him. For some time he said nothing about it, and no one suspected him. General Wilde had offered a reward of ten percent of any of the funds that might be returned to him. Whereupon this gentleman took a portion of his find to Washington and claimed the offered reward. He was at once put to torture and made to surrender the whole amount without receiving any reward at all.

For many years after the raid rumors of hidden treasure were revived. One of these twenty or thirty years after came from a statement said to have been made by a dying man in the West, who claimed that he was in the raid, and that he threw a large bag of gold into a certain part of Fishing Creek. The particulars of his statement seemed so plausible that some parties undertook to pump out this part of the creek, which had in the meantime been cut off from the main stream and partly filled in. No treasure, however, was found.

That part of funds captured by the Federal soldiers and that recovered by General Alexander finally found its way into the United States Treasury under the assumption that it was the property of the Confederate Government, and hence subject to confiscation. A claim was made by the Virginia banks upon Congress for a restoration of these funds upon the grounds that they were the private property of the banks, and hence not subject to confiscation. Pending the investigation and settlement of this claim extending over several years, William B. Isaacs and Company of Virginia became the successors in interest of the Virginia banks, and they continued to press the claim before Congress.

The matter was referred to the House Committee on War Claims, in the 49th Congress, 1st Session, (1886), and the following report, which shows the leading facts in the case, was made:

"The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred a resolution (H. Res. 67) for the relief of William B. Isaacs & Co., beg leave to report that the questions involved in this resolution were, by the action of the House in the Forty-fifth Congress, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and a favorable report was made thereon, but no action taken by the House. That in the Forty-sixth Congress like action was taken, and again a favorable report was made thereon. In the Forty-seventh Congress it was referred to the Committee on War Claims,

who made a favorable report thereon, but in neither case did the resolution have action by the House.

"The facts in this case have been so often and so fully reported that your committee have adopted in the main the report from the Judiciary Committee of the Forty-fifth Congress, as setting forth accurately the facts involved.

"That it appears from the papers referred with said petition that on the evacuation of Richmond, on the 2nd of April, 1865, the Bank of Virginia and the Farmers' Bank of Virginia withdrew from their said banks about \$450,000 in gold and silver coin and bullion, principally, however, in gold coin, and proceeded with said treasure, under the care of certain officers of said banks, to Washington, in the State of Georgia; that on the 24th day of May, 1865, the said officers of said banks, together with said treasure, set out with a wagon-train from Washington, Ga., for Richmond, having the proper permit and safe-conduct for so doing, issued by General M. B. Patrick, provost-marshal-general; that some time during the night of the 24th of May, 1865, being encamped near the Savannah river, about 18 miles from Washington, Ga., they were attacked by an armed cavalry force and their surrender demanded. They claimed the protection guaranteed them under the safe-conduct or pass of General Patrick, which was disregarded, and, under threat of death, they were obliged to submit to being pillaged. These robbers succeeded in carrying away about \$250,000 in gold and silver coin

and bullion of the said \$450,000. The following day that portion of the treasure train left intact proceeded on its way to Richmond, and finally arrived there.

The next day following the robbery, the bank officers remaining behind recovered about \$110,000 of the treasure of the \$250,000, of which they had been pillaged the previous night, and carried the same to Washington, Ga., and placed it on deposit with the cashier of the Bank of Washington, where it remained under the care and custody of the said officers of said Richmond banks until the latter part of July, 1865, at which time, having procured a pass and safe-conduct from General Steedman, in command of that district, with headquarters at Augusta, Ga., said officers proceeded with said \$110,000 from Washington to Augusta. That about the 1st of August said bank officers arrived in Augusta with said \$110,000 and placed it on deposit in one of the Augusta banks, where it remained under the control and within the possession of said officers of said Richmond banks until the latter part of August, 1865. General Steedman, in obedience to instructions from the authorities at Washington, D. C., requiring the delivery of said \$110,000 to a United States Treasury agent, who had been sent to Augusta, Ga., took possession thereof and delivered it to said Treasury Agent, who thereupon transported the same to Washington, D. C., and placed it in the United States Treasury. That soon thereafter the officers of said Richmond banks proceeded to Washington, D. C., and presented their petition in writing to the President of the United

States and the Secretary of the Treasury, setting forth that said treasure was the private property of said banks, and that they were entitled to have the same returned to them. That after a full investigation of all the facts in connection with the matter, the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney-General decided that said treasure was the private property of the said banks, and that they were legally entitled to have the same turned over to them; and the necessary directions were given therefor. That, notwithstanding this decision, subsequently a joint resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives, on the 22nd of March, 1867, providing for the covering of said gold and silver coin and bullion into the Treasury of the United States, which said resolution passed the House on the day on which it was introduced, and passed the Senate the following day.

"From that day to the present the owners of said treasure have been endeavoring to secure the return of said treasure to its legal owners.

"That in June, 1871, under and by virtue of decree made by the circuit court of the United States of Richmond, the assets of said banks were sold for the benefit of the creditors of said banks. That among the assets so sold was the claim of said banks for said \$110,000 of gold and silver coin and bullion. That at said sale said William B. Isaacs & Co., became the purchasers, for the

benefit of themselves and others as creditors of said banks. That by virtue of said sale said William B. Isaacs & Co. have become the successors in interest of said banks in and to said treasure.

"The question for determination is, was said treasure, at the time it was so taken possession of by the United States at Augusta, the private property of said banks? If it was, then your committee agree that the said banks or their legal representatives are justly entitled to receive from the United States the value thereof. In the judgement of your committee it is deemed the better course to refer the question of ownership of said treasure for determination to the Court of Claims.

"Your committee have agreed to the accompanying bill, which provides for a reference of this case to the Court of Claims for its investigation.

"Upon the case thus stated there would seem to be little or no doubt that the money so taken should be paid over to the petitioners, Messrs. Isaacs & Co. But there must have been evidently another side to this case, which your committee have no means of investigating.

"The story of the petitioners, as above recited, is supported very fully by ex parte affidavits and some documentary evidence, which, if they state all the facts, would compel the judgement of the committee. Yet your committee do not fail to see that there must have been some other side of this story to have required or induced the action of Congress; some representations must have been made to Congress that should have induced both branches to have taken the very prompt action which they did in this case, and the President of the United States to approve the bill covering this money into the Treasury of the United States. That side of the case has not been presented to your committee, and if it were we have no proper and adequate means of investigating it, or the truth of the very clear prima facie case made by the petitioners. If the latter case should be fully sustained, upon thorough and impartial investigation, then it seems clear to your committee that the petitioners would be entitled to relief. This seems, therefore, to be one of that class of claims which should be investigated by a judicial court, with a view that the rights of both the United States and the petitioners should be ascertained and determined upon evidence taken under all the safe-guards that the law requires in the investigation of rights by the courts.

"Therefore your committee recommend the passage of the joint resolution as amended."

The following petition of the claimants made to the United States Court of Claims, filed on April 4, 1887, in pursuance of the recommendations of the above report throws still further light upon the case:

"To the Honorable the Judges of said court:

"To claimants, William B. Isaacs, William G. Taylor and John C. Williams, partners, under the name and style of William B. Isaacs & Co., who are citizens of the United States and of the State of Virginia, respectfully represent:

I.

"That this petition is filed under and pursuant to an act of Congress approved the day of A.D., 1886, of which the following is a copy, to wit:

JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

"For the relief of William B. Isaacs and Company.

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the petitions and claim of William B. Isaacs and Company for certain assets claimed to belong to them as successors in interest of certain banks in Virginia, described therein as having been taken by the Government of the United States in the month of August, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, with the accompanying papers now on file in the House of Representatives, being Miscellaneous Documents number five. Second Session, Forty-fifth Congress be referred to the Court of Claims for judicial ascertainment of the facts; that wherever papers or affidavits are

made or executed by persons deceased not interested in the cause, they shall be considered as evidence by, the court, and given such weight as they may deserve; but wherever the affidavits are of living persons, the evidence shall be taken in the usual way, subject to cross-examination on behalf of the United States; that the court shall fully adjudicate upon the rights of the parties and the ownership of the property described in the petitions, and, as matter of law, to whom it should be paid, and report said findings of fact and law to Congress for consideration. The said petitioners shall not be barred of relief in the said court by reason of any act of limitations.

II.

"That heretofore, to wit, on the 14th day of March, A.D. 1865, the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia duly enacted a statute, of which the following is a copy, to-wit:

"AN ACT authorizing a loan to the Commonwealth of three hundred thousand dollars in gold and silver coin by the several banks, and the application thereof to the use of the army of Northern Virginia. (Passed March 14, 1865).

"1st. Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That the auditor of public accounts, acting under the direction and control of the Governor, be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow from the several banks of this Commonwealth, in gold and silver coin, a sum of money not exceeding in the aggregate three hundred thousand dollars,

and to pledge the faith of the Commonwealth for the repayment of the same in like currency, or its equivalent, by proper certificates of indebtedness to be issued to said banks respectively: Provided, however, That the time or times to be fixed for such repayment shall not be earlier than the termination of the present war, except at the option of the Commonwealth.

"2nd. As said money shall be received from time to time, the said auditor, acting in like manner under the direction and control of the Governor, is hereby authorized to pay over the same, upon the footing of a loan to the Confederate States, either to the Secretary of War or to the general-in-chief of the Confederate army, as the Governor may deem most expedient, to be used exclusively for the purpose of procuring subsistence for the army of Northern Virginia: Provided, however, That before paying over the same it shall be the duty of the Governor to obtain from the Confederate authorities the best securities they may have in their power to offer consistently with the public interests, by way of hypothecation or otherwise, in order to secure to this Commonwealth the repayment in like currency, or its equivalent, the sums advanced under the provisions of this act.

"3rd. Be it further enacted, That in determining the proportion of coin to the circulation of said banks, as required by existing laws, the loans to the Commonwealth hereby authorized to be made by them shall be deemed and taken in all respects as so much coin in the possession

and actually belonging to said banks respectively, so long as said loans shall be continued.

"4th. This act shall be in force from its passage.

III.

"That at the time of the enactment of said last-named act, and at the times of the occurrences and transactions hereinafter specifically set forth, certain banking corporations existed, created under the laws of said Commonwealth, to-wit; 'Farmers' Bank of Virginia.' 'Banks of Virginia,' 'The Bank of Virginia,' 'The Exchange Bank at Norfolk,' 'The Exchange Bank of Richmond' (branch), 'The Bank of Commonwealth,' 'Traders Bank' and 'Bank of Richmond.'

IV.

"That under and pursuant to the said act set forth in the second paragraph of this section, the Governor of said Commonwealth applied to said banks for a loan of money aggregating the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, and the said several banks loaned to said Commonwealth the sums following, that is to say:

Bank of Virginia -----	\$100,000
Exchange Bank of Norfolk-----	34,000
Exchange Bank, Richmond -----	25,000
Farmers' Bank of Virginia-----	100,000
Bank of Commonwealth-----	21,000
Traders' Bank-----	12,000
Bank of Richmond-----	<u>8,000</u>
	\$300,000

"And for the repayment of said loans the said Commonwealth issued to said banks, respectively, the evidences of indebtedness in said act provided for.

V.

"That the said commonwealth was a stockholder in the banks hereinbefore named, to-wit, the said Farmers' Bank, the Bank of Virginia and the Exchange Bank, and said banks were depositories of the Commonwealth in which the said Commonwealth kept on deposit moneys of said Commonwealth; and the moneys so loaned were transferred to the credit of said Commonwealth on the books of said bank, and were never removed therefrom except as hereinafter specifically stated.

VI.

"That it was contemplated, as more fully appears by said act set forth in the second paragraph of this petition, that said Commonwealth should lend said moneys to the Confederacy, and should receive from said Confederacy security for said loans; that in furtherance of the object in view, it was agreed that the loan of said moneys should be made to the said Confederacy by said Commonwealth upon the said Confederacy giving to said Commonwealth as security two million pounds of cotton, at fifteen cents per pound; but your petitioners aver that said security was never given, and said loan was never consummated, except as hereinafter stated.

VII.

"That pending the negotiations with the Confederacy for security, the Auditor of said Commonwealth issued checks in warrant for the aggregate sum of \$159,000--one check or warrant being for \$100,000 on the Bank of Virginia, and the other for \$59,000, on the Exchange Bank. These were drawn in favor of John C. Breckinridge, Confederate Secretary of War. No checks or warrants were issued in favor of said Confederacy other than the two checks above mentioned.

VIII.

"That all of the said moneys remained in said banks, except the following sums that had been drawn by the State for said purposes, to-wit, \$21,000 (twenty-one thousand dollars), until the day of the evacuation of the city of Richmond by the Confederate forces, to wit,

April 2, 1865; that on the said day the said Bank of Virginia gave to John M. Strother, an officer of the Confederacy, a specie check on its branch at Lynchburg for the sum of \$20,000, and paid to said Strother the sum of \$80,000 in coin, and the said Exchange Bank gave to said Strother a specie check on the branch of Lynchburg for the sum of \$34,000, and paid to him the sum of \$25,000 in coin; the said two specie checks were never presented to or paid by said banks, and afterwards were destroyed. On the said 2nd of April the said Strother received from the Farmers' Bank \$112,000 in coin, but without warrant or authority therefor.

IX.

"That the said moneys being in the said banks and in the actual custody thereof, respectively, excepting the sums paid out, as hereinafter set forth, on the said 2nd of April, the moneys in said banks were placed in cars to be transported from the said banks to the South, amounting to over \$200,000, and in the same car were also transported the moneys which had been paid to said Strother, as hereinbefore averred, the said moneys of the banks being kept separate from the moneys that had been paid to said Strother; that afterwards, to-wit, on the 21st day of April, 1865, the said Srrother returned and paid over to the said Bank of Virginia, the said Exchange Bank, and the said Farmers' Bank the sum of \$223,929.90, being the coin received by him as aforesaid and the specie checks aforesaid, to be applied and credited by

said banks in part satisfaction of said obligation of said Commonwealth to said banks on account of the loan hereinbefore set forth.

X.

"That the said Strother having turned over to officers of said banks the said sums as aforesaid, there was then in the custody of said officers of said banks the sum of about \$450,000, and of this sum \$170,000 was received from said Strother (the said checks, aggregating \$54,000, having been destroyed) for the purpose of being transported back to said banks.

XI.

"That the said officers of said banks so having the said sum of \$450,000 in their possession, to-wit, in May 1865, and while the same was being transported to said banks, by private conveyance from Washington, Georgia, the sum of \$250,000 was taken from them by robbery, of which sum \$145,000 was of the money that had been in the possession of said Strother, but which had been by him paid over and delivered to said banks as aforesaid, and the remaining \$105,000 was taken from the Bank of Virginia; that afterwards, of the said sum \$250,000 so taken by robbery, the sum of 111,000 was restored to the bank officers, and of this \$111,000 the sum of \$9,000 was identified as of the money belonging to said Bank of Virginia, and that had never been in the possession of said Strother.

XII.

"This money so recovered by the bank officers was held by the officers of said banks on deposit for safe-keeping in certain banks in Washington, Georgia, transferred thence to Augusta, Georgia, to which place the same had been removed after recovery, for the purpose aforesaid; and thereupon, on or about the 23rd day of August, the defendant herein seized the same, removed the same to the city of Washington, D. C., and appropriated a part thereof to the payment of sundry expenses, leaving in the possession of the defendant the sum of \$100,000 of the moneys aforesaid, which defendant still holds.

XIII.

"Claimants further aver that the said banks other than the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, for a valuable consideration, released and transferred to the said last-named banks all of their interest in and claim to the said moneys, or any part thereof.

XIV.

"And claimants further aver that heretofore, to-wit, on the 29th day of June, A.D., 1871, under and by virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Virginia, in certain proceedings to subject the assets of the said banks of Virginia to the payment of the indebtedness of said banks, all of the assets of said banks, including the matters hereinbefore specified, were sold at which sale claimants

purchased the claim herein set forth, and the same was duly transferred to claimants under the orders of said court and under like proceedings in said court, decree entered April 13, 1871, the claims of the said Farmers' Bank were, on the 22nd of June, 1871, sold to claimants and the same was, under the order of said court, duly transferred to claimants.

XV.

"Claimants aver that they have never made any assignment or transfer of said claim or any part thereof, and that there are no just offsets or credits against the same, and that the same and every part thereof is wholly unpaid, and they say that there is justly due on account thereof the sum of \$100,000, for which they demand judgement.

WILLIAM G. TAYLOR,

WILLIAM B. ISAACS & CO.

"Shellabarger & Wilson,

Att'ys., Washington, D. C.

"John T. Harris,

Harrisonburg, Va.

"City of Richmond,

"State of Virginia, County of Henrico, SS.

"Before me, R. T. Brooke, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, on this the 2d day of April, A.D. 1887, personally came William G. Taylor, one of the

claimants in the foregoing petition, who, being by me first duly sworn, on his oath says that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the matters and things therein set forth are true, and that the sum claimed is justly due over and above all set-offs and just grounds of defense.

WILLIAM G. TAYLOR.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of April, A.D., 1887.

(Seal)

"R. T. BROOKE, N.P."

It appeared from this petition that the State of Virginia was a stockholder in some of these banks, was part owner of a large portion of the funds in question, and that these funds had been raised to sustain the Confederate Armies under General Lee.

For six years the case was pending in the United States Court of Claims, and on June 22, 1893, that Court rendered the following decision:

"The Bank of Virginia was the equitable owner of a part of the fund in the Treasury, proportionate to the amount which it contributed thereto; such proportionate part being the sum of \$16,987.88. The claim therefor and right of property therein passed to and is now owned by the claimants in this suit who are equitably entitled to the same.

"The remainder of the said fund, being the sum of \$78,276.49 is the property of the United States, the title never having passed to said banks and the claimants not having derived any claim or title in and through said judicial proceedings."

Thus after a lapse of twenty-eight years ended this remarkable case, in which there occurred one of the most dramatic episodes connected with the War between the States.

REFERENCES

- ¹From "The Recollections of a Naval Officer" by Captain William H. Parker (1883).
- ²From a letter by General John F. Wheless published in "The Southern Historical Society Papers", Vol. X, pp 137-141 (1882).
- ³The New York Times, January 6, 1882, A letter to the Editor from Walter Philbrook, Chief Teller of the Confederate States Treasury.
- ⁴"The Confederate Soldier In the Civil War" Pageant Books, Inc., Patterson, N. J. 1959, pp 319 - The Last Days of the Confederate Treasury, and What Became of Its Specie, by Captain M. H. Clark (1882).
- ⁵The Story of the Confederate Treasure, by Otis Ashmore* published in the Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. II, number 3, September 1918, pages 119/138.
- ⁶Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends by Lucian Lamar Knight, page 214.
- ⁷Georgia's Fabulous Treasure Hoards by Ernest M. Andrews, 1966, page 68.

* Mr. ashmore later was Editor and Publisher of a magazine "the Progressive Farmer". it was the most respected magazine of its kind. I remember as a boy in N.C., my father subscribed to it.

Interesting sidelights on the subject are also contained in the "Wartime Journal of a Georgia Girl", by Miss E. F. Andrews.

Also in "Recollections of a Georgia Reefer", by Capt. James Morris Morgan.

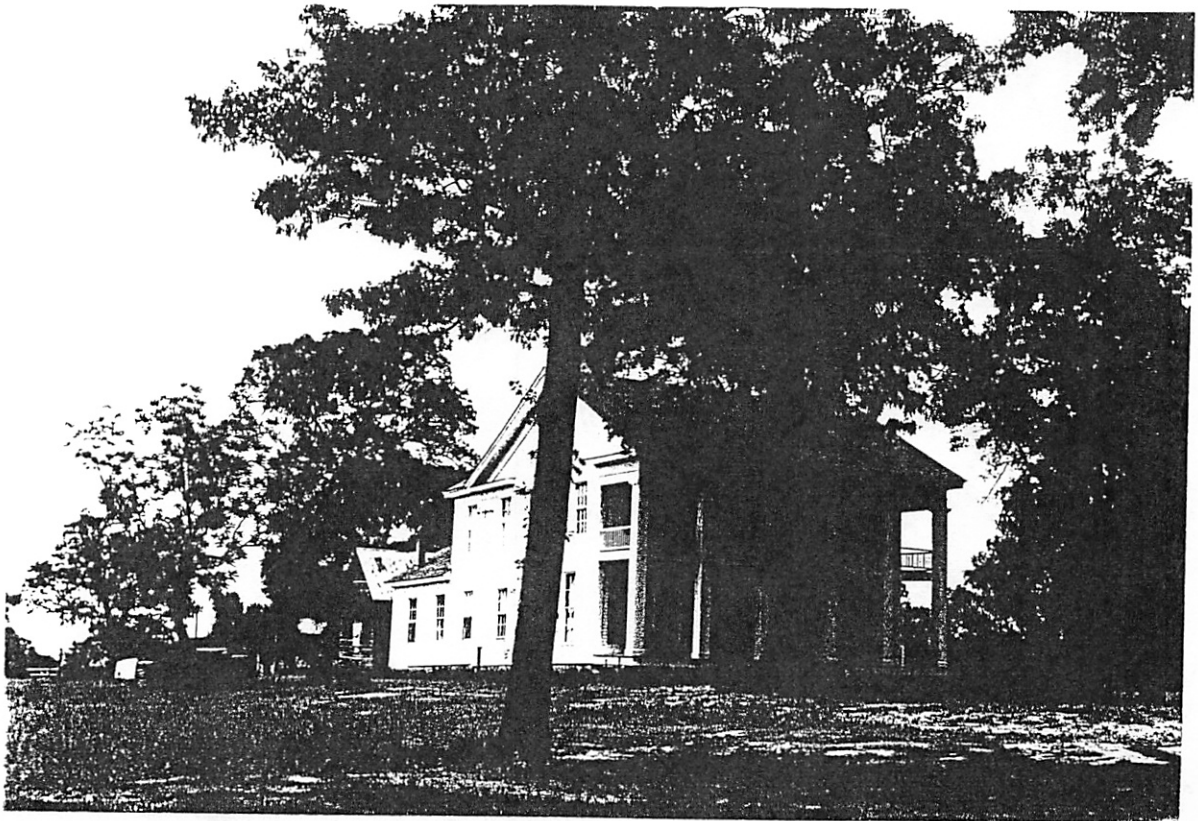
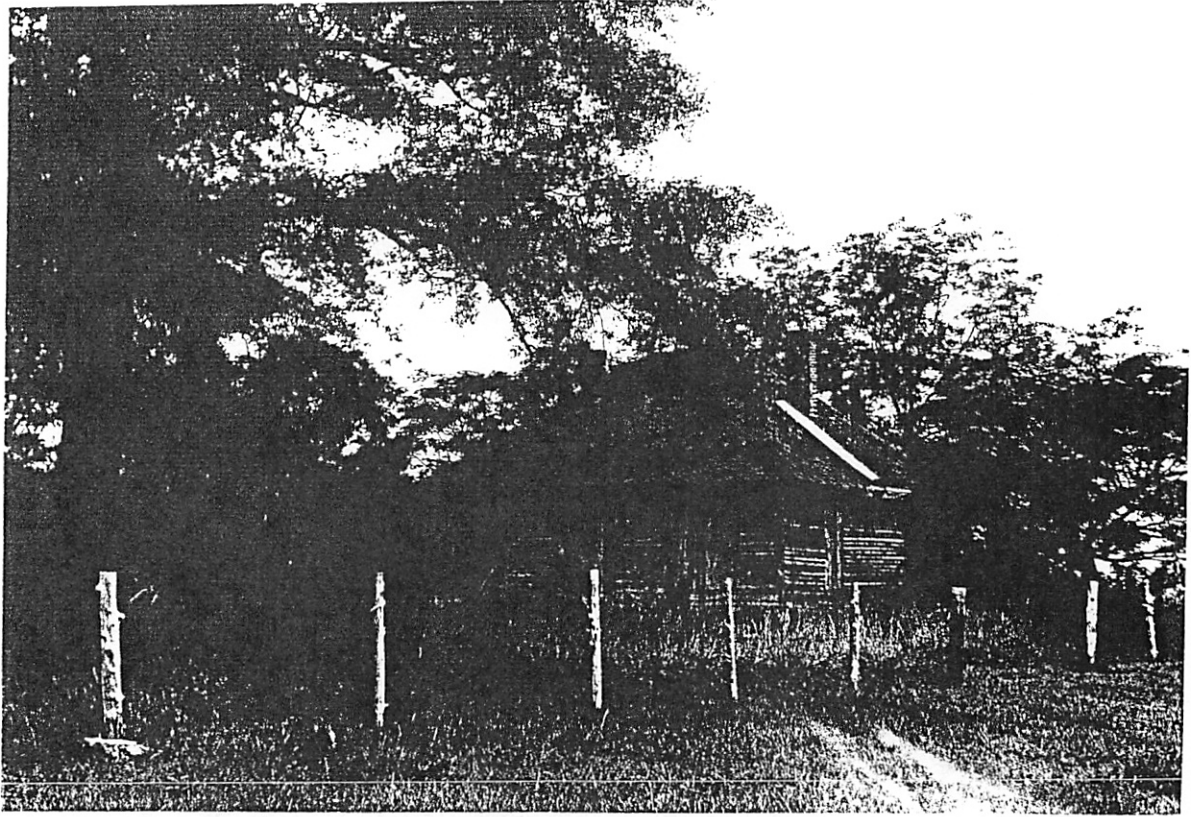
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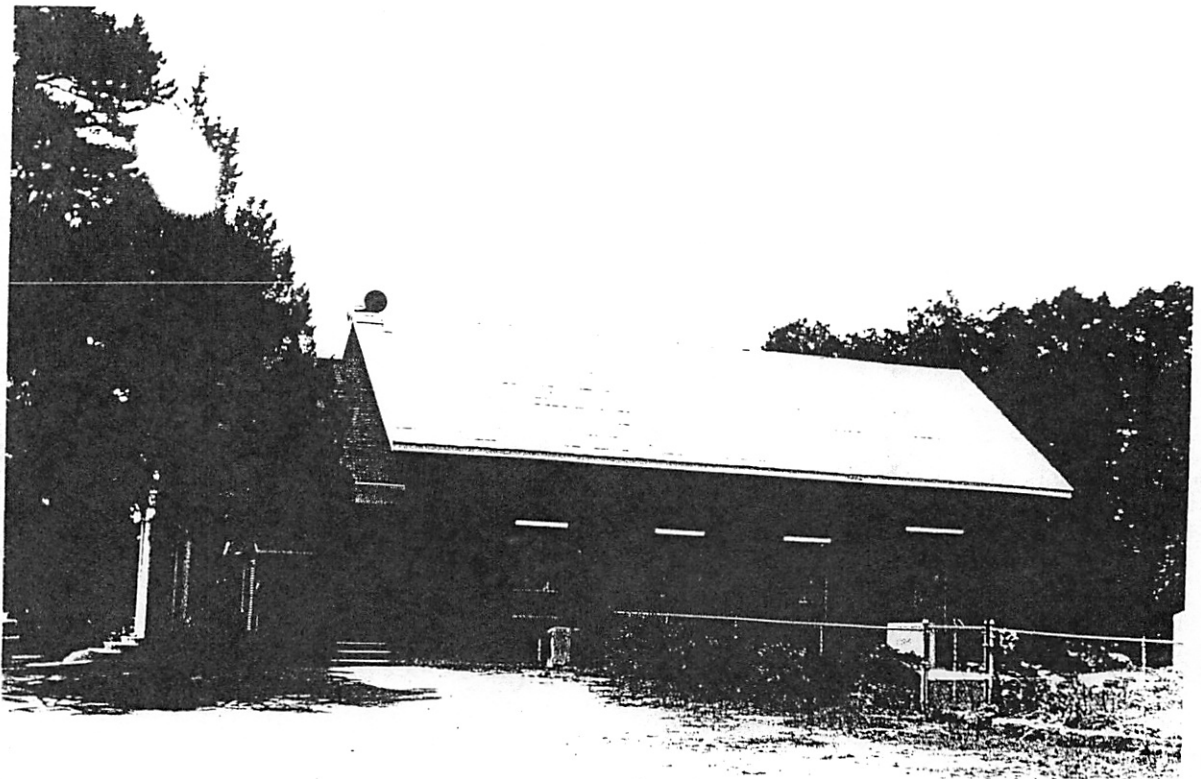
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"Georgias Landmarks, Memorials, and Legends", by Lucian Lamar Knight, pages 213/217.

"Some Incidents of the Civil War as Related by an Eye Witness", by Mrs. Mary House Lane, 1925.

on the night of April 16, 1865, Jefferson Davis
and his escort spent the night in a grove
of pine trees near the spot where today,
highway I-85 crosses Abbott's Creek near
Lexington, N.C.





Pvt. William T. Fluker
Co. D 15th. Georgia Regiment
Benning's Brigade
Army Of Northern Virginia

July 1861 to April 9, 1865

wounded at Garnet's Farm (a skirmish in Virginia) on
June 27, 1862 and again at Fredricksburg, Virginia in
December 1862. He recovered, and served to surrender
with General Lee at Appomattox.

At the time of surrender, the men of the 15th. Georgia
Regiment threw their rifles into the well of a house
nearby, rather than surrender them.

Private Fluker's grandson: ~~Wm~~
James D. Fluker
Rt. 1, Box 65
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF COMPANY "D" 15th REGIMENT
GEORGIA VOLUNTEERS

By William T. Fluker - Who was a private in this
company JULY 1861 to APRIL 9th 1865

This Company was organized early in the
Spring of 1861 at Crawfordville,
Taliferro, Co. This being the home of the
illustrious Statesman, Alexander H. Stephens, and
Vice President of the Young Confederacy.

83 rank and file.

Dr. S. J. Farmer, a practicing physician of
note, was elected Captain.

John M. Tilley, a lawyer and class-mate
of Tombs and Stephens was First Lieutenant.

Samuel J. Flynt, a young man of prominence
was elected Second Lieutenant and Minck Ivey,
a veteran of the Mexican War and hero of
Cheultepec was made Third Lieutenant.

We left Crawfordville for Atlanta
on the night of July 15th 1861.

And these forming the 15th Georgia
Regiment, with Companies following Counties, Viz-

Company A "Delhi Rangers", from
Wilkes Co.; Lincoln County, one Company "G",
"Lamar Confederates"; Elbert County, three
companies, Companies, "I", "F", "C"; Hancock
County, two Companies, Companies "E" and "K";
Franklin County, one Company "B", and Hart
County, one Company "H". In all 10 Companies.

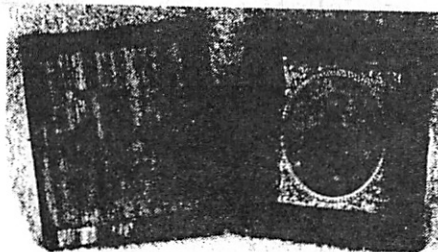
After Regiment was formed we then
proceeded to elect Regimental Officers, and
here I cast my first vote, and was not yet
16 years old, and had never voted before.

We elected Thomas W. Thomas, a prominent
lawyer of Elbert Co. Colonel. Hon. Linton
Stephens of Sparta, Hancock Co. and Brother
of Alexander H. Stephens, was elected Lieut.
Col., and McIntosh of Elbert County was
elected Major.

We left Atlanta on the 18th for the front.
We arrived in Manassas Junction, in Virginia, two
days after the first Battle of Manassas, and served
the entire time of war with the famous old Army
of Northern Virginia, and participated in all the
battles of this "Grand Old Army", except the 1st
Battle of Manassas and Chancellersville, Va.

At the time of the engagement at Chancellers-
ville was fought, we were at Suffolk, Virginia, with
a detachment of Longstreet's Corps. And so I missed
this Battle. But we more than made up for this "miss"
by being transferred to the Western Army, then under
Gen. Bragg, at Chicamauga, Georgia. And fought

*This photograph
case of Williams,
hand carved from
Cedar, is owned
by James Fluker
of Gainesville, Ga.
Carved on January
30, 1864.*



the Battle of Chimama
ember 1863. So was e
Gen. Longstreet, in t
and winter of 1863 ar

In 1864 we too
Tenn. and returned to
ginia, then lying at
preparations for the
1865, which began at
of May 1864, at the W
day of April 1865. A
Virginia, when we sur
his remnant, of a onc
of 10,000 half starve
who stacked their wel
tattered banners at A
the morning of the 9th

We were all Pa
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over the mountains of
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to begin with.

Company "D" sur

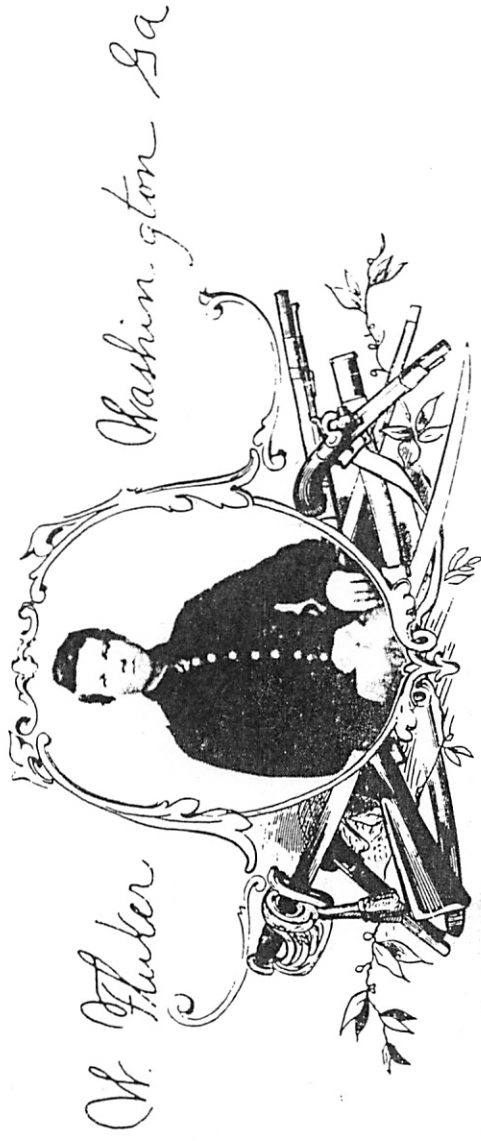
WILLIAM T. FLUKER - Co
Ga. Volunteers, Bennir
Virginia.

Wounded at Garnett's F
Fredericksburg Decembe

July 1861 to April 9,

born at Chertle, S. Farm, June 27, 1862 and at
Fredericksburg December 1862, both slight.

July 1861 to April 9, 1865. Volunteered, age 15.



William T. Tucker, Jr.
 C. S. A.
 1845 - 1911

William left this cabin in Taliaferro Co., Georgia and went to
 Crawfordville, Ga. early in the spring of 1861, joining Stephens
 "Home Guard. He was not yet 16. He became a private in the
 Southern Confederacy.

then
ers, and
not yet
before.

Prominent
Linton
Brother
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Virginia, two
sas, and served
us old Army
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cept the 1st
lle, Va.

at Chancellers-
Virginia, with
and so I missed
for this "miss"
Army, then under
and fought

the Battle of Chimamunga on the 17th and 18th of Sept-
ember 1863. So was engaged in all the battles with
Gen. Longstreet, in his East Tenn. Campaign, in fall
and winter of 1863 and 1864.

In 1864 we took R. R. at Zole Coffe, in East
Tenn. and returned to our place in the Army of Vir-
ginia, then lying at Gordonville, Va. then making
preparations for the Memorable Campaign of 1864-
1865, which began at 4 o'clock A. M. on the 6th day
of May 1864, at the Wilderness, and ended on the 9th
day of April 1865. At Appomattox Court House, in
Virginia, when we surrendered with Gen. R. E. Lee and
his remnant, of a once invincible and conquering Army
of 10,000 half starved, ragged and foot-sore men,
who stacked their well worn muskets and furlled their
tattered banners at Appomattox Court House, Va. on
the morning of the 9th of April 1865.

We were all Parolled on the field, and
commenced our sad and toilsome journey homeward,
over the mountains of Virginia with a tramp of sev-
eral hundred miles before us and empty haversacks,
to begin with.

Company "D" surrendered 23 officers and men.



WILLIAM T. FLUKER - Co. "D" 15th Ga. Regiment,
Ga. Volunteers, Bennings Brigade, Army of Northern
Virginia.

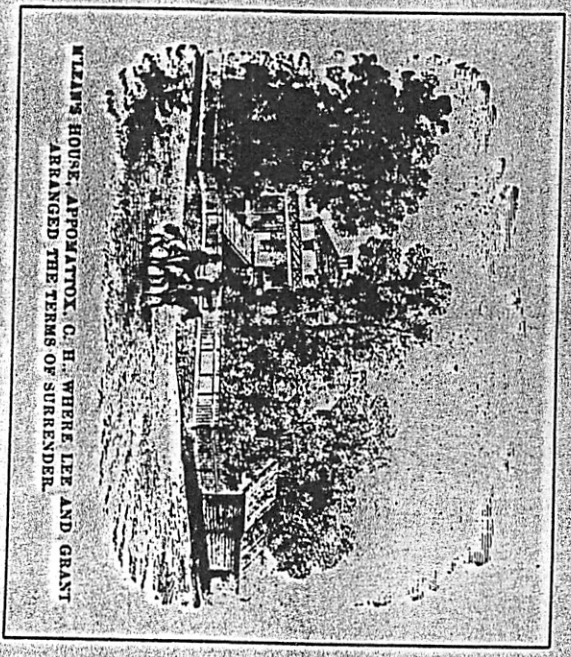
Wounded at Garnett's Farm June 27, 1862 and at
Fredericksburg, December 1862, both slight.

July 1861 to April 9, 1865. Volunteered, age 15.

JOHN M. MURDEN - Grandmother's oldest brother.
(Emily Reid Murden) Co. "D" 15th Ga. Regiment
Ga. Volunteers, Bennings Brigade Army of
Northern Virginia

He was captured at Ft. Harrison (very close to
Richmond) Oct. 1, 1864, in battle. He was held
in prison at Point Lookout till the close of the
war.

Born March 13, 1838
Volunteered, age 23



WILLIAM'S HOUSE, APPOMATTOX, C. H. WHERE LEE AND GRANT
ARRANGED THE TERMS OF SURRENDER.

Miss Bob Smith

011911

Lincolnton

Has a copy of the *Handwritten*

(Mr. Fannie Fox) a *dict*

rebellion of the train.

Miss Louise Flinker
McDuffy County, Ga.
104-555-1157

Mrs. Cora Lane Smith

213 Pine Forest Drive

Pine Smith

Greenville, S.C.

Mrs. Jeff. Edwards
Washington
Museum
Mrs. Fred Patten
Lincolnton, Ga. 30811
404-352-3832

Mrs. James Dale

Lincolnton, Ga.

Has a copy of the *rebellion of the train*

Mrs. - - Lewis
Living in the *rebellion of the train*

memo

FROM

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R. L. HOBBS

Miss Louise Fluker
McDuffy County, Ga.
404-595-1587

Mrs. Neta. Edwards
Washington, Ga.
Museum

Mrs. Fred Prater
Rt. 4 (FRANCES COLLARS)
Lincolnton, Ga. 30817
404-359-3835

Mr. Paul Prater
Intersection of
~~Chennault & 79~~
Ga. #44 & 79
Chennault Crossroad

Mr. Wayne Mathis
Chennault Crossroad
Mrs. - - Lewis
Living in old Chennault house

MOSLEY, ANN HEIGHTS
WASH., GA.

*the Rise & Fall of Petersburg
Lewis Bailey has a copy*

DR. JAMES T. BRYSON
678-2929 OFFICE, 678-7252 HOME

Wm. T. Fluker - Company D - 15th Ga
Regiment, Ga. Volunteers - Berrings'
Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia
July 1861 to April 9th 1865

Wounded at Garnett's Farm June 27 1862
and at Fredericksburg Dec 1862

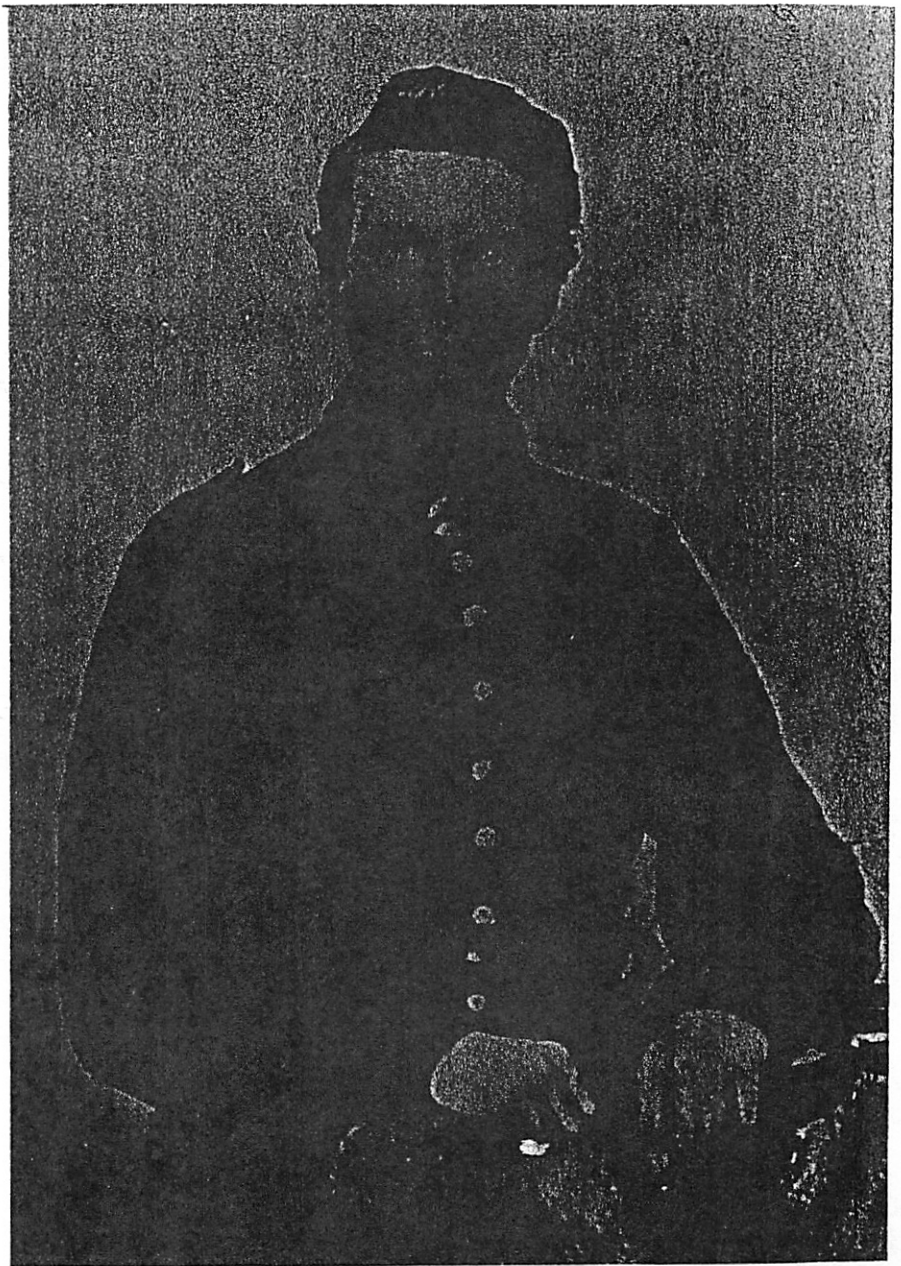
Recovered + served to surrender
with Lee at Appomattox.

The men of the 15th Georgia
threw their muskets in a well
at Appomattox rather than stack
them + surrender them to the
enemy.

J.D. Fluker

Rt #1 Box 65

Gainesville Ga 30501



Robert Fluker
Brother of Wm T. Fluker

J.D. Fluker
Rt #1 Box 65
Gainesville Ga 30501



June 14, 1980

Dear Mr. Hobbs,

The Alliance Director has asked me to write a review of THE FATE OF THE TWO CONFEDERATE WAGON TRAINS OF GOLD for our Newsletter. Would you please tell me if copies are still available from you and at what price, as I would want to include that information in the review. Thank you very much.

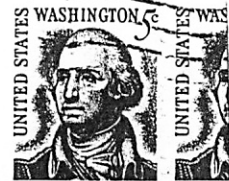
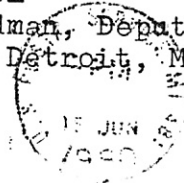
Deo Vindice!

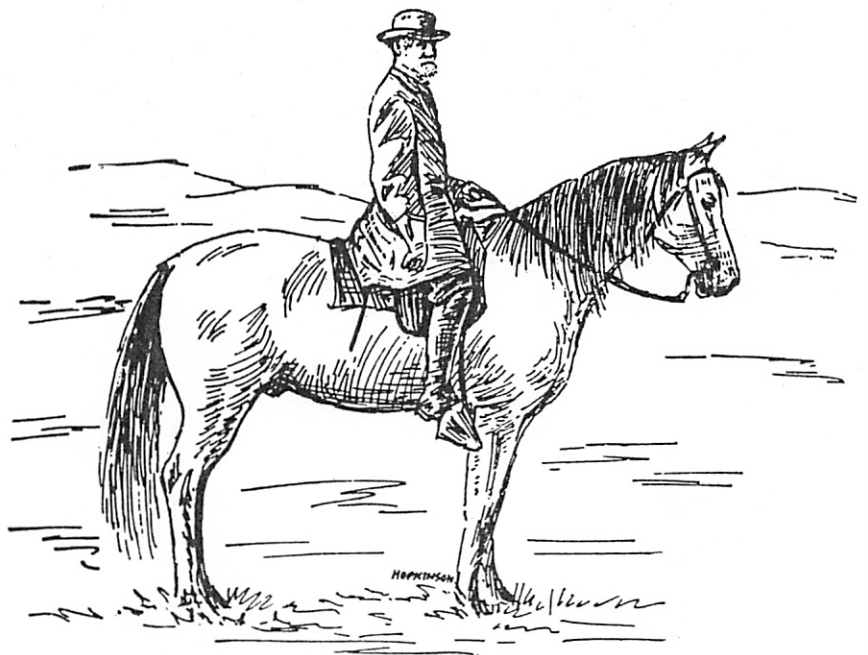
Albert Stedman

CONFEDERATE ALLIANCE

Colonel Albert Stedman, Deputy Director

5311 Harvard Road, Detroit, Michigan 48224





Lee and Traveller

memo

FROM

1974 AUGUST 1974						
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29	30					

R. L. HOBBS

Chenrault descendants

GEORGE PIERCE

Mrs. aliene C. Bates

Country Club apt.

Augusta, Ga.

- 733-8236

Mrs. Bartoreo

1 mile up 44 toward

Danville

Mrs. Mary ^{Joley} Stennett NOT RELATED,
Rt. 1 Danburg, Ga. BUT VERY
on Ugoall rd. WELL INFORMED.

CYANAMID