

his family. At 18 he enlisted in Company B 34th Alabama Infantry Regiment. This Regiment was organized at Loachapoka April 15 1862. At Murfreesboro, Chicamauga, Missionary Ridge, and in the campaign from Dalton, its losses were heavy. The heaviest loss was in July 1864 at Atlanta. In April 1865 the remaining 100 of the original 1000 men surrendered at High Point, NC. After the war he became a farmer and operated a grist mill on Paint Creek in Marble Valley, was a Mason, member of the Fayetteville Mason-



William Pressley Baxley Jr. and wife Alice Allen

ic Lodge and attended the Primitive Baptist Church of Marble Valley. He was married 3 times and had 17 children. At this writing, one child of the 17 survives: Carey Leander Baxley of Sylacauga. Carey was 13 when his father died and at age 14 went to work to support his mother until her death in 1936. At 65 he retired from the Sylacauga Street

Department. He is a member of the Captain John Henry Porter Camp 439 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and serves as Color Sergeant for this camp. Carey is one of the few surviving "Real Sons" of a Confederate veteran in the country. He was the father of Wayne Baxley, now deceased. He has one grandson, Carey William Baxley of Atlanta and two great grandsons, Colin and Conner, he attends the Valley View Church of God. *Submitted by: Carey Leander Baxley, 53 Virginia Avenue, Sylacauga, GA 35150*  
Sources: *The Sons of Confederate Veterans* magazine Vol 1, 1997; *The Alabama Historical Quarterly*, Vol 4, Spring Issue, 1942 by George Evans Brewer

## George Washington Bross

3rd Alabama Infantry

George Washington Bross (1843-1891) was born in South Carolina but lived most of his life at Equality. Descended from French ancestors originally known as DeBrosse, his family came to Alabama while he was still an infant.

George enlisted in Company I of the 3rd Alabama Infantry Regiment, called the Wetumpka Light Guards. One of the state's most distinguished units, the 3rd Alabama was the first to plant the Stars & Bars on the hills of Maryland. They served in numerous major battles. They were in the trenches at Petersburg until the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865. George was wounded in action and also captured. He once got out of a yankee prison camp and lived off the land for weeks, making his way back through the lines.

When George died in 1891, the newspaper printed an eloquent eulogy written by his son-in-law, James Lee Penton, who taught school at Equality. The following is an excerpt from that article:

"At the age of eighteen, feeling the inspiration of patriotic fire that stirred every manly soul in the tempestuous ways of '62, he enlisted for service in the civil war, joining Company I of the 3rd Alabama Regiment." "Through those four long years, the bloodiest spot on history's scroll, alongside of other youths, he braved the horrors of fratricidal carnage, drank the bitter dregs of common soldier life, bore the starvation and loathing of Point Lookout and other prisons. The strife ended and the inevitable result accepted, he returned to his native state and applied himself to the more peaceful calling of farming. In his chosen vocation, he lent his characteristic energy to build upon the wreck of his once fair country a home for himself and loved ones."

*Submitted by: Richard Penton, Montgomery, AL*  
Source: From Family Tradition

## Robert Simeon Penton

59th Alabama Infantry

Robert Simeon Penton (1835-1895) lived in the Concord Church community near Pentonville. He enlisted in Company F, 2nd



Robert Simeon Penton, 59th Alabama Infantry

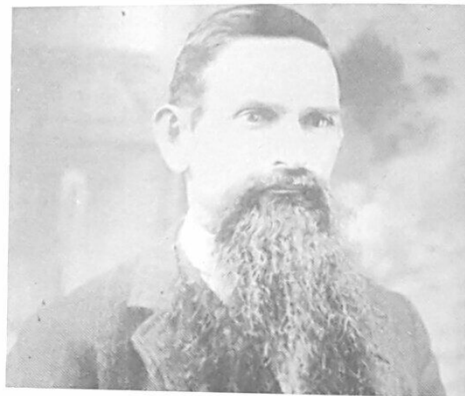
Beene's Station, Drewry's Bluff, Hatcher's Run, and White Oaks Road. They suffered over 50% casualties at Chickamauga, where the flag of the 2nd Battalion was perforated by 81 balls. They served in the trenches at Petersburg, and were at Appomattox when Robert E Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865. Simeon carved a pipe from a piece of the tree under which General Lee rested just before the surrender.

For the rest of the story on Simeon Penton and his family, see "The Penton Pilgrimage" in the family history section of this volume. *Submitted by: Richard Penton, Montgomery, AL*

## Henry Taylor "Pete" Richards

Private Nixburg/ Company B, 46th Alabama Infantry

Enlisted at Equality, Alabama, April 1862 and served until 1865, Salisbury, North Carolina at the final surrender of the



Henry Taylor "Pete" Richards, Nixburg. Taken around 1880

Army. Richards, born May 31-1843, and died December 6-1926. (1921 Census of Confederate Soldiers.) Richards survived a bullet to the leg in action. A memorial monument was provided by The Sons of Confederate Veterans, and placed at the gravesite of Henry Taylor Richards, during the summer of 1995, Rehobeth Cemetery, Nixburg.

In Salisbury, North Carolina, during the Civil War, a Confederate prison in an old cotton mill held 10,000 prisoners, 6000 of whom died there. *Submitted by: Rosie Morgan, Chair*  
Sources: Census of Confederate Soldiers / research

## Sergeant John Forsythe Vardaman

Company G, 2nd Engineer Regiment, Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

The lone survivor of three sons of Edwy L. Vardaman of Tallapoosa County who had marched off to the War Between The States, John Forsythe Vardaman, pioneer settler of Coosa County, Alabama, and first school teacher in the town of Goodwater, returned home from four years of service in the Confederate Army on May 17, 1865.

He first volunteered at Rockford in Coosa County as a 12 months soldier when the War began. Later, on May 8, 1862, at nearby Pinckneyville in Tallapoosa County, he enlisted in Captain Martin M. Slaughter's Cavalry Company of Hilliard's Legion, Alabama Volunteers. This Company became Company E of the 5th Cavalry Battalion of Hilliard's Legion. On December 30th, 1862, it became Company C when the 5th Battalion of Hillard's Legion combined with the 19th Battalion, Georgia Cavalry, to form the 10th Confederate Cavalry Regiment.

John F. Vardaman served variously as scribe, secretary, bookkeeper and recruiting officer and was a courier during Gen. Braxton

Battalion of Hilliard's Legion, which later became Company B of the 59th Alabama Infantry Regiment.

Simeon served most of the early part of the war in Kentucky and east Tennessee, and the final year in Virginia. The unit's major engagements included Cumberland Gap, Chickamauga, Dandridge,