

EPILOGUE

The war was over in Virginia. Before the surrender ceremony at Appomattox, General Lee had mounted Traveller and ridden to his home in Richmond. Grant was already on his way to Washington.

At least 41% or 55 men of the 141-144 who served in Company B were dead, 42 killed or mortally wounded in battle action and at least 14 more dead from disease or from accidents. Of the 100 or so original members of the company who marched away from the college in July, 1861, 41 would be killed in action and another 10 dead from disease for a death rate of 52%! Some reports that have been published and talked of in Bowdon for as long as I can remember is that only 6 men of Company B, The Bowdon Volunteers, survived the war. I believe that what was intended by this statement was that "only 6 of the Bowdon College 'cadets' who enlisted in the company survived." I have heard many times that the 6 surviving members of Company B served as pall bearers at the 1871 funeral in Bowdon for Charles McDaniel. I believe these could have been the 6 students who were not killed. If the same survival rate for students exist as for others this means that there were probably about 12-15 students in the company. Quite a number of those who came back from the war were minus arms or legs and many others suffered from wounds or diseases which would shorten their lives and prevent them from making a decent living.

The surrendered Confederate soldiers were given their paroles and instructed to go home. They were given passes to be used on any government-run railroad and nothing else. The men from Bowdon probably marched or caught a ride to Lynchburg and, if lucky and the trains were running, arrived back near home that way, then walked the remainder of the way. (It is interesting to note that when Gen. Croxton arrived in Carrollton on April 25, 1865 it is recorded that some of the men who surrendered with Lee at Appomattox and who were paroled there on April 12, were there and told the Yankee general that Lee had surrendered. This was only 13 days after the surrender ceremonies at Appomattox. If this is true, evidently the railroads were in pretty good shape for the men to get home in this short time.)

The members of Cobb's Legion and Company B who were captured at Saylor's Creek would not be freed until mid July from their prison at Newport News, Virginia where they were required to "take the oath" before gaining their paroles. They were given railroad passes to the station nearest their homes. They probably had a better chance of riding the rails at that time at least as far as Atlanta or Newnan. Confederates captured at Saylor's Creek on April 6 were considered prisoners of war and were not included in the Appomattox parole agreement. Generals Kershaw and Dubose, along with General Ewell and other high ranking officers such as Colonels Sanders and Hutchins, would remain in the officers' prison in Boston Harbor until mid July when they were released.

Before the men from Appomattox could get home, war had come to Bowdon in the form of Yankee Cavalry. Mjr. General James Wilson had assembled one of the largest mounted forces ever put together, 7,000 cavalymen on good horses, in northern Alabama and was to send his forces on a trail of destruction through Alabama and Georgia. He was determined to beat the South's most famous horseman, Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and to destroy important manufacturing plants and anything else, including colleges, if it was felt that they were in any way aiding the Confederacy. His philosophy was, "Don't be concerned that the South is beaten. Destroy it anyway!" For the details of this unnecessary raid, read *Yankee Blitzkrieg- Wilson's Raid Through Alabama and Georgia* by James P. Jones.

Wilson divided his large force into several wings, one of which was commanded by General George T. Croxton and numbered about 1,500 horsemen. Croxton put the match to the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa then continued his march eastward, crossing the Alabama line west of Bowdon on the 24th of April, 1865 and rode on to the village. We do not know exactly what damage his men did in the town but they were probably hungry and of course took whatever they wanted or needed. We do know that they raided the store of the one-legged veteran of Company B, John Word. They also took, as captive, Sgt. William Barrow of Company B who was home in Bowdon on wounded furlough. William was taken to Macon where Croxton was to rejoin Wilson. He was paroled there in July.

Croxtan rode on to Carrollton where he did considerable damage burning the north side of the square. Meanwhile, Wilson himself, after taking Columbus, Georgia, was leading the larger part of his men from Columbus to Macon, burning as they rode. He heard rumors that Lee had surrendered and everywhere he went the people told him that it was true. At Thomaston, where he was burning textile mills, he saw a newspaper with the story of Lee's surrender.

A story concerning this Yankee cavalry raid told to me by my grandfather of his grandfather, the Reverend James Barrow, the circuit riding Baptist preacher, is that the Reverend was making his rounds in eastern Alabama when several of Croxtan's blue coated horsemen came upon him. The old man was badly crippled but was riding alone on a fine horse. One of the Yankees noticed the old preacher's good looking saddle and it appeared to be in better shape than his own. He got the old man down off his horse and took the saddle for his horse. This got the old Parson's temper up and he shouted, "You boys will go to hell for what you've done today!" The Yankee cavalryman who had taken the saddle replied, "If I'm going to hell, I'll need a better horse to ride." With that, he not only took the saddle but the old man's fine horse as well leaving the old preacher with a worn out horse and a sorry saddle.

James R. Barrow became a well-to-do merchant and mill owner and died in 1880. He married Martha Holmes in 1865 and had a son, John William, and a daughter, Georgia. His wife "Mattie" died at childbirth of a third child and soon little Georgia died, also. James R. died in 1880 of tuberculosis which, it is said, he contracted in the Yankee prisons. He drew money from the State for an artificial leg but he never drew a pension. At his death, his brother, William also of Company B, became the guardian of young William who was my grandfather.

James R.'s friend, John Word, was also a Bowdon merchant for many years. He would never use an artificial leg but he requested money from the State instead of a leg.

James Barrow's cousins, Benji and Jim Mobley of Company E, both returned to their home in Georgia. Benji had been seriously wounded in the neck, thigh and hip at Crampton's Gap and captured. He recovered and was paroled, rejoined the Legion at Fredericksburg and was captured again at the Battle of the Wilderness in May, 1864. He took "the oath" at Elmira, N. Y. prison camp in July, 1865. He is listed in the Union records as "fair complexion, hair dark, eyes blue and 5 ft. 11 inches in height." He had enlisted at Waynesboro, Georgia in August, 1861 and was 19 years of age at that time. Benji's younger brother, Jim, enlisted along with him. Jim was sick much of the time during the war but was able to remain on duty, advancing to the rank of 4th sergeant. Athens cousins Milton Pope and Tom Barrow made it back home OK also. Pope became Georgia's US Senator and Tom after a while became a Baptist pastor.

In 1871, the body of Company B's first captain, Charles McDaniel, was moved from Kentucky back home to Bowdon. A large crowd assembled at the college to pay him homage at the funeral service where several veterans of Company B along with several from the 41st Georgia served as pallbearers. Also present was Professor-Major Richardson who had taught these men to march and the manual of arms. It was a long service after which their captain was given a final resting-place in the cemetery of the little Methodist Protestant Church where he had served as pastor. A beautiful marble marker was purchased with public subscription and remains over the captain's grave today.

The Legion's second captain and the man who led Company B through most of the war and it's hardest times, Major William Walker McDaniel, returned to his home at Texasville, Alabama after receiving his severe hip and leg wound in the Valley Campaign of 1864 and lived on the 750 acre family farm for the rest of his life. He was retired from the Army of Northern Virginia on February 24, 1865 but continued to serve as a recruiter until the war ended. He was living on the large farm located in Barbour and Henry counties northwest of Abbeville when he married Francis M. Creel on November 29, 1866. The Major and "Fannie" had nine children. Her obituary in the *Eufaula Weekly Times & News* states that she died at her home in Barbour County, was age 42, the wife of Major W. W. McDaniel and left "five or six" children.

Major William Walker McDaniel died on July 10, 1892 at the age of 54. He is buried in the Clopton Methodist Church Cemetery not far from his home. His grave is marked by a Confederate marker as well as regular marble marker.

William McDaniel must have been a very rugged and durable individual to have endured almost the entire war with Company B and survive all the marching and fighting this unit was involved in. He evidently was a very good officer as Company B and Cobb's Legion record was superior. The old saying is that a good officer can make good soldiers out of about any kind of men but a poor officer makes poor soldiers out of good men.

We know that he had a much younger brother, Philip Alfred, Jr., attend Bowdon College after the war. We also believe that the family had the body of son John, killed at Chancellorsville, moved back to Columbia Cemetery near the Chattahoochee River where the mother and father had moved to in 1866 leaving William Walker on the place at Texasville. The marker in the Columbia Cemetery states that John was killed on May 3, 1863 at Chancellorsville. Other reports state that he died ten days after he was wounded on May, 3. If this is the case his body could have well been shipped home from a hospital, possibly in Richmond, as his parents were well-to-do planters or the body possibly was moved after the war. Other family descendents believe that the marker is merely a memorial and that the body does not rest in Columbia.

Bowdon was a very poor place in which to live immediately following the Civil war. Confederate money was no good and the state of Georgia had suffered tremendous losses in property and its railroads were worn out. Returning soldiers were weak and/or sick and livestock was scarce. Horses and mules needed for making a crop were difficult to find and cost a fortune if found.

The Bowdon College, nevertheless, was operating as an "Academy". In December of 1866, the State Legislature passed a measure which was the "G. I. Bill" for the Confederate veterans. The law provided for the education for all indigent and maimed veterans under 30 years old to be educated free of charge for tuition, books, board and clothing until the completion of their education. The bill specified that the colleges participating in the program be the University of Georgia, Emory University, Oglethorpe University and Bowdon College. The expense for each veteran could not exceed \$300.00 annually and the veteran had to agree to teach in the state for a period equal to the time he was enrolled in the program. A number of the veterans of Company B, including John Word, Tom Beck, George Anderson, E. M. Hines, Tom Carter, John Thornton, William Shelnett, William Stephenson and Samuel Brown along with about 90 other Confederate veterans took advantage of the "G I Bill" and enrolled. I am not certain if James R. Barrow did enroll, however, I have a surveying class picture of the students showing a one-legged person that we believe is he.

Brown had lost an arm due to a severe wound received in the Battle of the Wilderness in May, 1864. He enrolled at Bowdon College in 1867 and graduated in 1871. He taught school in Carroll County, was County School Commissioner and, later, was elected County Ordinary and held that position until 1904 when he retired due to poor health.(1)

In 1869, the Legislature, now controlled by "scalawags, carpet baggers and Negroes", abolished the "G I Bill" leaving the veterans and Bowdon College in dire circumstances. Veterans met at Bowdon College to determine what they could do and enjoyed the occasion so much that they decided to make it an annual meeting. These reunions continued beyond 1900.

The old soldiers of Company B are all long since gone. We find another of their graves occasionally around Bowdon. They will never be forgotten!