

PREFACE

The purpose of this book is not to write another history of the Civil War or to detail any of the battles fought during its four long years. It is to try to preserve for my children, grandchildren and future generations of Barrows along with any other interested parties, an account of their ancestor's Confederate service. It is the story of Company B of Cobb's Georgia Legion Infantry itself.

It is my desire to record where Cobb's Legion Infantry and the Bowdon Volunteers, who would become Company B of Cobb's Legion, were and when and why they were there. I wish to identify the army units to which they belonged so that anyone who is interested can follow the larger organization structure and learn more about how Cobb's Legion and Company B were involved in a particular engagement. It is a day-to-day account of the almost four years of their war, where they were and what they were doing on that day.

Another purpose of this book is to record a list of the leaders of the units to which Company B belonged and, also, to give some background on these individuals.

This book is a record of the many battles in which Company B was engaged and their losses and successes in those engagements. In addition, it is my purpose to give as much information on each individual member of the company, and of their sister company, Company F another Carroll County, as possible.

Books, papers, articles etc. dealing with the larger aspects of the Civil War will fill a library. In this work, we will try to preserve the part this company played in the most destructive war in the history of our great nation.

My interest and research on Company B and on Cobb's Legion began many, many years ago and at that time I had no idea that I would put my findings into book form thus some of my notes may not be as complete as I would like for them to be. This effort represents many years of reading, research, visiting battlefields and attending Civil War seminars and meetings. I have visited and walked on the grounds of all of the sites, that I know of, where Company B was engaged with their enemy, including the bloody mountain side of South Mountain at Crampton's Gap in Maryland, the farmlands down through the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield, and to the base of Little Round Top in Pennsylvania, the Virginia country-side around Richmond's battle grounds including Malvern Hill and Cold Harbor, Yorktown, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Salem Church, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, to the Shenandoah Valley town of Front Royal and nearby Guard Hill and Cedar Creek, to the site of Fort Sanders in Knoxville and, finally, to Sayler's Creek and Appomattox Court House. All were stained with the blood of the men of Company B from Bowdon. I have traced their miles of hard and some easy marches, their train and boat rides and visited their camp sites. There is no doubt that there are many who know much more about these battles than I do, and I apologize for the mistakes which I probably have made which I am sure will be recognized by these experts.

The information on individual members of Companies B and F is researched from Combined Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from the National Archives plus data added from other sources such as pension rolls, information from descendants of individual soldiers and many publications. Confederate army records leave much to be desired and, many times, are incomplete and inaccurate. We have to take what is available and do the best we can with this information. I am sure that these summaries will not set well with some descendants of these men.

James Reeves (Jimmy) Barrow was born in Bowdon, Georgia on 3 October, 1844. He was the son of the Reverend James and Lucinda (Lucy) Bivins Barrow and the grandson of Moses Barrow, a Revolutionary War soldier of North Carolina. He entered the Confederate service with the original formation of the company at Bowdon where he was a student at the Bowdon Collegiate Institute and

was mustered in on July 30, 1861. He was three months shy of being 17 years of age when he marched off that first year of the Civil War.

He served through the year of 1861 and, on September 14, 1862, at Crampton's Gap (a pass through South Mountain in Maryland), he was wounded, captured, his left leg amputated by Federal surgeons, exchanged and placed on wounded furlough. He was one month short of his 18th birthday when his active soldiering came to an end. We have pay voucher evidence that he served in the Invalid Corps around Atlanta later in the war.

After his return to Bowdon, he became a respected and prominent merchant. He also had half-interest in Victory Mills, a compound consisting of grist and flourmill, a sawmill, a cotton gin, a tannery, a shingle mill and a store in the Victory community on the Little Tallapoosa River near Bowdon.

James married Martha ("Mattie") Holmes in December, 1865 and the two were the parents of John William Barrow, my grandfather. He died 11 June, 1880 of tuberculosis which he said he contracted while confined in the Union hospitals and prisons. They both are buried in the Bowdon Baptist Church Cemetery. His grave is marked by a CSA marker identifying him as "Pvt. Co. B, Cobb's Legion."

James R.'s son, John William, was named in honor of James' two older brothers, John Turner, a sergeant in Co. B, 56th Georgia, another company which was made up primarily of Bowdon men, and William Henry C., a sergeant in Company B of Cobb's Legion. John died of smallpox in an Atlanta hospital while William fought through the war with Company B until Cold Harbor (Gaines Mill) in June, 1864 where he was wounded, captured and exchanged. William was on wounded furlough at Bowdon in April, 1865 when he was captured by a wing of Wilson's cavalry, taken to Macon, Georgia and paroled there.

The Reverend James also had at least three sons-in-law to serve and two of them never returned home. This was a tremendous loss to a family but was not unusual for the families of the small community of Bowdon. For instance, Gabriel Spruill, great, great grandfather of my wife Bonnie Jeanne Spruill, lost four of his five sons. One was an original member of Company B, Cobb's Legion, and he was killed at Chancellorsville. His other four sons were members of Company C, 56th Georgia Infantry; a company also made up primarily of Bowdon area men. Only one of the brothers serving in Company C, 56th Georgia survived the war.

Serious students of the Civil war will appreciate the "little things" that we have discovered such as camp sites and the names of these camps plus routes of marches and especially the distance marched on a particular day.

We hope that all who read this work will enjoy it and that it will help someone to learn how their Confederate soldier ancestor served in this famous organization.

Cobb's Legion was the only fighting unit, North or South, that was mentioned in Margaret Mitchell's novel, *Gone With The Wind*. Ashley Wilkes was a major in Cobb's Legion. Perhaps you remember the scene: it was of a ragged home-bound Rebel soldier, being fed by Melanie on the steps of Tara, who mentioned the fact that he was from Cobb's Legion and Melanie asked him if he knew Major Wilkes. He replied that Ashley had been captured at Spotsylvania. The Legion was mentioned in two additional written messages and casualty lists from the front.

Cobb's Legion will live in history as one of the greatest fighting units of all time.

I am proud that my ancestor, Private James R. Barrow, was a part of this noble Civil War organization.