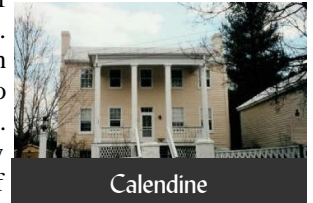


# Discover Page County's unknown stories.... the American Civil War

Provided by the Page County Department of Recreation and the Page County Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Committee

## Did you know....the "Page Volunteers", Company K, 10th Virginia Infantry

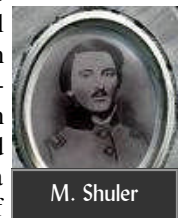
In early May 1861, the "Page Volunteers" assembled under Captain William Townsend Young. The 57 year-old Young had established himself in Page County before the war as a successful merchant. The builder and owner of the fabulous "Calendine" estate, Young ran a general store and coach stop for the Burke Stage Line. Dropped from the rolls the following spring, Young was succeeded by Rappahannock County born Richard Stewart Parks. Wounded in the right foot at McDowell in May, 1862, Parks later returned to duty until appointed the Enrolling Officer for Page County by order of the Secretary of War in 1863. Officially resigning as captain of Company K in 1864, Parks continued to make his life as an attorney in Luray. Serving as Attorney for the Commonwealth in Page in 1874 and in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1894 to 1900, Parks was known as a "striking character" and "an orator of no mean ability." Parks was succeeded by the youngest of the "Page Volunteers" three captains and his own brother-in-law, David Coffman Grayson. The son of Page County Sheriff Benjamin Franklin Grayson, young David had also served as county sheriff. However, on the battlefield David Grayson had also made quite a name for himself. In the post of 1st lieutenant at age 24, Grayson had been wounded at the battle of Cedar Mountain on August 9, 1862. Grayson took a number of months to recover from the wound he received in his right lung, finally returning to service in December. However, within five months of his return and within four weeks of his 25th birthday, Grayson was captured at the battle of Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. Sent to Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C., David was soon exchanged and elected to the post of company captain on February 25, 1864. Just over one year from the date of his last capture, Grayson was again captured on May 12, 1864 at the horrific battle of Spotsylvania Court House. This time his prisoner-of-war status was to continue significantly longer. Sent first to Fort Delaware, Delaware, Grayson saw a long series of transfers from several prisons which included Hilton Head, South Carolina and Fort Pulaski, Georgia before finally returning to Fort Delaware on March 12, 1865. During his life as a POW, Grayson acquired the unwanted destiny of becoming a member of the "Immortal Six Hundred" which consisted of Confederate officer POW's who were confined in the stockade on Morris Island, South Carolina, under fire of their own guns shelling that island. With Robert E. Lee's surrender in April and the inevitability that the war was no longer a cause for prolongation in June, Grayson selected to take the Oath of Allegiance on June 15, 1865 and was released to return to his citizen life.<sup>1</sup>



Calendine

## Did you know...."Page Grays", Co. H, 33rd Virginia Infantry

On June 1, 1861, the "Page Grays" were enlisted of men from all over Page County. Officially mustered into the service of the Confederacy on June 18, the company was initially led by Captain William D. Rippetoe. A 25 year-old Methodist minister, Rippetoe had not been in Page County for too many years upon receiving the post. As of the 1860 census, Rippetoe and his 21 year old bride were in residence at James W. Modesitt's hotel in Luray. The first of the four "solely" Page County companies, Rippetoe's company was designated as Company H, 33rd Virginia Infantry in what would become the famous "Stonewall" Brigade. Serving only briefly, Rippetoe would be succeeded by 30 year-old Ambrose Booten Shenk in November 1861. Shenk, a clerk and salesman in Luray. Shenk's career in the Page Grays was cut short however, falling mortally wounded at the battle of Kernstown in March 1862. The third and final captain of the Page Grays was elected to the post on April 21, 1862. Captain Michael Shuler was to serve in his new post for at least two years. Born in Page County in 1844, Michael was the oldest son of John and Mary Ann Kite Shuler of Grove Hill. Michael had attended Roanoke College as a partial student from late 1860 to 1861, along with another native of Page, Benjamin Franklin Grove. Unlike Shuler however, Grove was a native of Luray and chose his service with the Dixie Artillery and later as a member of Mosby's 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry. A trusted leader to the end, Shuler would fall as a victim of the heated action at the Battle of the Wilderness in the afternoon of May 5, 1864. Among the ranks of the Page Grays were several boys from the Hite family of Mill Creek. Daniel and Rebecca Hite saw witness to the enlistment of two of their sons in Rippetoe's company in June 1861, and two sons in the 97th Militia in July and August. A shoemaker, William F. Hite would be the first to enlist and was soon after elevated to the post of 1st lieutenant. Under his first trial of fire, William was wounded on July 21, 1861 at Henry Hill during the First Battle of Manassas. Suffering from a wound to the lung, he died of complications due to typhoid four months later. David C. Hite, William's brother, having transferred and enlisted in the Page Grays in April, 1862, was also wounded at Second Manassas a year later, but recovered to join his remaining brother in the field. Nearly two years after William's wounding, 1st Sergeant John P. Hite was mortally wounded on Culp's Hill at Gettysburg during the heated fighting on July 3, 1863. Suffering for two more days, John died on July 5 and was buried by David two miles north of the Pennsylvania town. David, having taken the risk to remain behind with his dying brother, was captured and sent as a prisoner-of-war to Point Lookout, Maryland until March, 1864 when he was exchanged. Almost six months after his exchange, David would be the last of his brothers to fall, being killed-in-action at Winchester on September 16, 1864.<sup>2</sup>



M. Shuler

## Did you know...the Dixie Artillery

By the latter part of June 1861, scores of Page's men had marched off with the first three units formed in the county at the outbreak of the Civil War. However, on June 21, the fourth and last company formed exclusively in the county and almost entirely of Page men was organized. Proclaimed the Dixie Battery or Dixie Artillery, the unit had ultimately been the brainchild of William Henry Chapman. Having recently left his studies, like most others, at the University of Virginia, Chapman sought out John Kaylor Booton to spearhead the effort. Booton himself had been the former commander of the little company of artillery that fired their two iron guns at 4th of July celebrations for a number of years. Since funds for the organization of another company from the county were exhausted, Chapman tasked himself with convincing Booton to financially back the new unit. While Booton was initially reluctant to fund such an enterprise, after some persistence, Chapman succeeded in convincing the pre-war self-proclaimed inventor. In short order, a meeting was called at Honeyville for all interested men. By June 21, eighty-two men had enrolled for service in the battery. Despite Booton's financial support, the company was extremely ill prepared for war. In need of horses, harnesses, and gun equipage, the men made due with little the battery had available. Not until after moving to Winchester was the battery made complete with new equip-



John K. Booton

ment by the order of General Joseph E. Johnston. In November 1861, Booton resigned his post, having been elected as a member of the Virginia Legislature. In turn, Chapman was elected to battery command and would hold the position for the life of the company. William Crisp, father of the future U.S. Speaker of the House (who was at that time a member of the Page Volunteers or Company K, 10th Virginia Infantry), and William's brother, Samuel F. Chapman held the posts of senior 1st lieutenants. Assigned to General James Longstreet's "wing" in the spring of 1862, the Dixie Artillery, alongside the famous battalion of Washington Artillery from New Orleans, marched in the Peninsula Campaign without seeing any action. However, on June 27, while held in reserve, the battery endured its first baptism of fire at Mechanicsville. Three days later, on Monday, June 30, Chapman's gunners made the battery's guns speak for the first time at the Battle of Frazier's Farm and according to the recollections of both Chapman brothers, the battery suffered "considerably." It would be nearly a month and a half before the Dixie Battery's guns would bark out again. Before the close of the summer, as a direct participant in which its guns blazed, the Dixie Battery could add only three more actions to its list of battle honors – Rappahannock Station (August 23), 2nd Manassas (August 30), and Boteler's Ford on the Potomac (September 19). While not engaged, the company had also been present at the surrender of Harpers Ferry (September 15) and Sharpsburg/Antietam (September 17). On October 4, 1862, as a result of the consolidation and reorganization of the artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia, the Dixie Battery was disbanded and the majority of the men remaining (46) were reassigned to the famous Purcell Artillery (Cayce's) of Richmond. As for William and Samuel Chapman, larger fames loomed on the horizon as members of John S. Mosby's famous command.<sup>3</sup>



Sam Chapman

## Did you know...Page County's Reserve & Militia Organizations

While there were five constantly active Confederate units (two infantry companies, two cavalry companies and one artillery company) formed almost exclusively from Page County, there were also some units formed as a part of the Virginia militia (1861-1862) and reserves (1864-1865). These organizations were primarily organized of men that could not serve with the regular army units for whatever reason. Originally enlisted from July 1 - July 7, 1861, the 97th Virginia Militia was primarily formed of Page County (though some companies indicate commanders from surrounding counties) men who had not already joined regular Virginia organizations. Twelve companies (A through M) composed this organization. The 97th Regiment was one of eight regiments and one smaller militia to make up the 7th Brigade under Brigadier General Gilbert Simrall Meem. Other regiments and organizations in the 7th Brigade included the 58th (Rockingham), 116th (Rockingham), 145th (Rockingham), Infantry Company Second Class Militia (Harrisonburg), 13th (Shenandoah Co.), 136th (Shenandoah Co.), 146th (Shenandoah Co.), 97th (Page), and the 149th (Warren) Regiments. Commanded by Colonel Mann Spittler, the 97th was called into service by the Governor on July 13, 1861, to rendezvous at Strasburg, except for companies already ordered to Beverly. Available records give some indication that the organization may have been disbanded in April 1862 by order of General T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson. The likely reason behind this would have been the need to "activate" those men who were able-bodied and could serve in the regular regiments of Jackson's army. Some men formerly from the 97th can be found to have later served with such units as the 10th and 33rd Virginia Infantry Regiments. Nearly two years later, on May 28, 1864, Captain Thomas Keyser formed Keyser's Boy Company of Reserves in Page County. Consisting of boys between the ages of 17 and 18, no record has been found of this company completing its organization and it is likely that the company was merged into the 1st Battalion Valley Reserves. All members of the company are shown to have enlisted on May 28, 1864 at Luray. However, it is likely that another "Boy Company" was formed prior to Keyser's organization. An unusual item to note is that while Keyser's company had been enlisted toward the latter part of May, several members of his company are shown as having joined the 62nd Virginia Infantry on May 4, 1864. Just over two months later, on August 9, 1864, the 8th Battalion Virginia Reserves, commanded by Major W.A.J. Miller, was organized with four companies (A through D), as the 1st Battalion Valley Reserves. However, it was not officially recognized and designated as the 8th Battalion Virginia Reserves until February 27, 1865. Company B was known as the Page Reserves and was formerly known as Company B, 1st Battalion Valley Reserves. Though organized in August 1864, enlistment's of several men from the Page Reserves goes back to May 28, 1864, possibly reflecting enlistments of Thomas Keyser's Boy Company. In late 1864, the battalion

was temporarily broken up and a remnant served in the 3rd (Chrisman's) Battalion Virginia Reserve, under Major George Chrisman. The 3rd appears to have been a temporary consolidation of various battalions then known as the Valley Reserves (the Page County men were in Company C of this organization with J.W. Modesitt as captain). Records indicate that the Valley Reserve may have been a "paper" organization composed of old men and boys, most of who never reported for actual service.<sup>4</sup>

## Did you know...Stonewall Jackson and the Hard-Luck Page Grays

The execution of deserters during the Civil War was not uncommon but the Page Grays of Company H, 33rd Virginia Infantry held a remarkable record of execution sentences - the most of any single company in the 33rd Virginia and likely the highest of any single company in the entire Stonewall Brigade. Interestingly, the majority of all of these men had returned to the company voluntarily, faced their punishments, and fought in future battles - some being killed in battle and one dying as a prisoner-of-war in 1865. At the "high tide" of the abundance of courts-martial in Stonewall Jackson's Second Corps in the winter of 1862-63, in addition to seven men sentenced to death, there were eleven others from the Page Grays sentenced to various other punishments including the laying on of between 25 to 39 lashes across a bare back. Four of those that had been sentenced to execution were fortunate enough to have escaped on technicalities - the courts-martial recorder having improperly maintained a complete record of the courts. Gabriell L. Price, Andrew J. Knight and William Pence were not as fortunate. However, despite their sentences, brigade commander General E.F. Paxton, intervened, writing General Jackson on several points including the fact that the execution of three men from the same company and county might bear undesirable implications in discipline and morale. Instead, Paxton suggested to Jackson that the men be allowed to draw lots leaving only one to be executed. Not one for leniency, Jackson made his comments about the matter and routed the paperwork on to General Robert E. Lee who in turn made his recommendations. Though staff member Henry Kyd Douglas inaccurately stated in later years that on the day of execution the men were all pardoned by President Jefferson Davis, ultimately it appears that the decision for drawing lots was found agreeable. On that fateful day of February 28, 1863, William Pence, the thirty-one year-old laborer from Leakesville, was the unlucky man of the lot. Map-maker Jedediah Hotchkiss recollected that the condemned man "wept bitterly, wishing to see his family." However, Mager William Steele, of the 48th Virginia Infantry, recollected much more. After the entire division had formed near the site of the execution in a deep hollow near Camp Winder "the condemned man leaning on the arms of two chaplains" was brought into view. Steele wrote: "we went up to the stake playing the Dead March . . . When we got to the place the men that were carrying the coffin put it down by the side of the stake and the condemned man sat upon it leaning against the stake. The preachers sang and prayed and then shook hands with him." When asked for his last statements, Pence stated he wished to see his brother, which was not honored. Again the condemned Page man was asked for a last statement to which he replied "No, nothing." When the order to fire was given Pence "threw up his hands and fell over. He did not speak after he was shot, he gasped for breath twice. His last words were 'O what will my poor wife do. . .'" It was just over weeks since William's seventh wedding anniversary with his wife Rebecca. On a final note, Andrew Jackson Campbell, a member of the Page Grays and one of the discoverers of the Luray Caverns barely escaped a court-martial of his own that winter. Having been absent without leave from November to December 1862, Campbell however, delivered a satisfactory excuse and went on to see the end of the war and the development of tourism in Luray.<sup>5</sup>

## Did you know....a Yankee Represented Page in the 1861 Secession Convention

Would anyone ever believe that the 1861 Secession Convention Representative for Page County came from an area just west of Albany, New York?! Peter Bock Borst was born in Schoharie County, New York on June 23, 1826. Likely the descendant of German Palatine immigrants, Borst came to Page County in 1847 and soon opened his law practice. Known as a man of "wonderful force of character," Borst devoted most of his life to his law practice and several aspects of Page County. Within a few short years of his arrival to Page, he met and married Isabella C. Almond on April 1, 1851. The daughter of Mann Almond, Borst had instantly married into one of the most active families in the Page County courts. From their marriage would come four children, including Charles (ca. 1852), Elizabeth (ca. 1854), Cornelia (ca. 1856), and William (ca. 1858). Soon after the arrival of son Charles, the popular Page County structure "Aventine" was constructed. Borst had designed the home when he was 20, without consulting any architects. All of the lumber that made up the beautiful home came from the Blue Ridge and had been seasoned for at least two years before being applied to the project. Built with no nails, the home was entirely "pinned and morticed." According to family stories, it was Peter's daughter Elizabeth, who later named the home for one of the seven hills of Rome. Later serving as the principal building of Luray College from 1925 - 1927, the home later moved "piece-by-piece" to make room for the Mimslyn in 1937. With his office in the North wing of the courthouse, by 1860, Peter, having established himself as Commonwealth Attorney since 1852 had accumulated a great deal of property (\$40,000 worth) and popularity within the county. Borst's inclination to increase his wealth is evident in the fact that he also owned a farm by the middle 1850's. Likewise, Borst had also built a three story tannery that would be later known as being "one of the most flourishing establishments in the county" in antebellum Luray. With the election of republican President Abraham Lincoln in 1861, the Commonwealth of Virginia sat on the verge of joining sister southern states in secession. Page citizens found the best representative for the state's Secession Convention in Borst. In both of the votes on April 4 and 17 respectively, Borst voted for secession, helping to seal Virginia's role in the Confederacy. Peter's presence in Page also lured two brothers from New York to the town prior to the Civil War. Both Addison D. Borst and John B. Borst would follow their brother's belief's in the Confederacy and joined Co. K, 10th Virginia



Aventine

Infantry on June 2, 1861. As 2nd corporal, Addison would be captured with most of his company at Spotsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864 and was sent to Point Lookout and Elmira before being exchanged in October, 1864. Addison later married into Virginia's prominent Taliaferro family and resided in King George County in later years where he died. Working as a tanner in his brother's business prior to the war, John was first brought into the service as 1st sergeant before being made commissary sergeant of the regiment in 1862. Paroled in 1865, John later attended several Confederate reunions, including the 1906 event in Culpeper. Following his return to Luray, Borst resumed his practice as the Commonwealth's attorney for Page. Having been a representative to the Secession Convention however, Borst had been earmarked as a target of Federal aggression during the war. On July 22, 1862, under orders from General Steinwehr, an expedition under the command of Colonel William R. Lloyd entered the town of Luray. Easily taking Luray, Lloyd's force encamped on the high ground immediately south of Luray. The town was immediately placed under marshal law and Captain Abell, of the 6th Ohio acted the role of provost-marshal, with his company as the provost guard at the court house. Additionally, Peter Borst's home was seized, after his evacuation of the place, and used as a hospital, under charge of Surgeon Finch, also of the 6th Ohio. Over a year later on December 22, 1863, a Federal raiding party entered Luray and broke up Harry Gilmer's camp equipage, destroyed large quantities of leather goods, and burned Britton's shops and Borst's tannery. Following the war, Borst held the position as Commonwealth's Attorney until 1870, when due to the military (post-Civil War) appointment of Judge Hargest, Borst was without the office for one year. He resumed the post in 1871 however. Borst became involved with other issues in the postwar as well, being the projector of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad and was largely interested in several other important lines. With the motto, "It is better to wear out than rest out," the latter part of his life was filled with labor.<sup>6</sup>

## Did you know.... Former Page County Confederate Served as US Speaker of the House

Just prior to the secession of Virginia, the family of William H. Crisp moved to take up residence in Luray. Crisp, a native of Sheffield, England, had emigrated to the United States in 1845 and originally settled in Ellaville, Georgia. William and his wife were most noted for their roles as Shakespearean actors who started several theaters and toured throughout the South. As the war opened, the father, and two sons; Harry and Charles, enlisted. Two of the three joined units organized in Page County. William served with the Dixie Artillery and was appointed 1st lieutenant. Harry joined with Company F (Muhlenburg Rifles of Shenandoah County), 10th Virginia Infantry, and deserted in the summer of 1862. He later died in Chicago, Illinois sometime after the war. Perhaps the most famous of all three was Charles Frederick Crisp. Born January 29, 1845 in Sheffield, England, he enlisted in Company K (Page Volunteers), 10th Virginia Infantry as 4th corporal. Reduced to the rank of private at the company's reorganization in April 1862, he also went absent without leave for over a month during that same summer. However, his reasons for the absence were apparently justified as he was elected as 3rd lieutenant on June 9, 1863. Eventually captured at the battle of the Wilderness, Charles became one of the "Immortal Six Hundred" Confederate officers who were incarcerated in the stockade on Morris Island, South Carolina, under fire from their own guns (unknowingly to the Confederates that fired on the stockade) that shelled the island. Released June 16, 1865 after taking an oath of allegiance, Crisp returned to Page County only briefly before setting out on a larger political venture. Using the post-war to prepare for a career in law, Crisp was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1866 and beginning in 1872 served as that state's solicitor general and then as a superior court judge. In 1882, he resigned from the bench to run as a Democrat for the U.S. House of Representatives, easily winning election to the 48th Congress. While in this capacity, Crisp participated in the most significant legislative battles at the time. According to one source, "his knowledge of parliamentary rules, his skill in disputation, and his commanding physical presence marked him as a leading Democrat. Playing a major role in the passage of the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 and a strong supporter of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890, Crisp was remembered also for using his powers by bringing the Committee on Rules into the Speaker's domain. This committee was especially important as it, being under Democratic direction, virtually dictated the legislative business of the House. In 1896 Crisp announced his candidacy for the senate seat of the

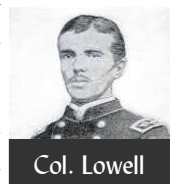
retiring John Brown Gordon (former famous Confederate General) the same seat which had been formerly held by Alexander Hamilton Stephens - more popularly remembered as the Vice President of the Confederate States. However, Crisp's health soon failed and on October 23, 1896, one week before his confirmation to the post and the general assembly convened, he died in Atlanta, Georgia.<sup>7</sup>

## Did you know....a slave named "Luray"

Union Colonel Charles Russell Lowell, Jr., commanding a Federal brigade that was in the midst of pushing Confederates from Luray, gave what may be the first, and perhaps only known written account that clearly documents a Page County slave leaving with the Union army. Having been involved in the action at Yager's Mill on September 24, Lowell paused briefly a few days later in Staunton to write his wife of his time in Page County. "I haven't told you that, the day before yesterday in Luray, I organized a small black boy, bright enough and well brought up; his name is James, but as we have already two of that name here, I call him Luray, which is quite aristocratic. You can teach him to read and to write in the winter, if you have time. The Doctor thinks you will find more satisfaction in him than in your pupils of Vienna." Though Col. Lowell was later killed, Josephine was quite active for the balance of her life in significant charitable projects. Regretfully, little is known (yet) as to what happened to the young man that Col. Lowell renamed for the town in which he was found.<sup>8</sup>



C. F. Crisp



Col. Lowell

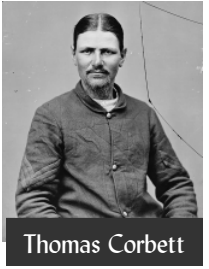
## Did you know....a Page County Confederate and John Wilkes Booth

During a fight on June 24, 1863 several of Mosby's Rangers, including a Page County Confederate (a captain at the time), got in a tight scrap with some Federals of the 16th New York Cavalry. According to an article published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1895, after the Rangers had captured a good number of the "Yankees," one particular trooper continued to give the Rangers a



Capt. Chapman

fit from behind a persimmon tree and in a ditch with a seven-shooter repeating rifle. Three attempts were made to capture this Federal trooper before success was finally had. Once the trooper had been overtaken, one of the junior officers leapt from his saddle, clearly enraged for having to make three attempts to snatch the foe, knocked the Spencer rifle from the Yank and pointed a pistol at the fellow's head. The Page man (the Captain) yelled out: "Don't shoot that man! He has a right to defend himself to the last!" The weapon was lowered and the Federal trooper was hauled off to Richmond as a prisoner of war. Had the Page County officer not called the junior officer off, surely the Yank would have met his demise. Eventually taken to Andersonville, the Federal



Thomas Corbett

trooper was luckily released prior to Union Gen. U.S. Grant putting an end to the exchange of prisoners. As fate would have it, the trooper was among 26 others that surrounded the barn at the Garrett Farm in Port Royal, Virginia. That trooper, none other than Sergeant Thomas P. "Boston"

Corbett, won fame for having shot Booth, Lincoln's assassin, through a crack in the barn. Corbett was initially arrested for disobeying orders, but was released and awarded his share (\$1,653.85) of the reward money. Known as a "religious fanatic", Corbett later explained his actions saying that "God Almighty directed me." The Page County man was, of course, William Henry Chapman, later John S. Mosby's right hand and second in command of the famous Rangers.<sup>9</sup>

## Did you know....Page County's Only General - Thomas Jordan

A future "facile write, excellent manager, and loyal subordinate," Thomas Jordan was born the son of Gabriel and Elizabeth Ann Sibert Jordan on September 30, 1819 in the Page Valley, and became the only Confederate General produced from Page County. Educated first in Page County schools, Jordan matriculated at the United States Military Academy in the summer of 1836 and by 1840, graduated forty-first in his class which included future notables such as William T. Sherman (also one of his roommates), George Henry Thomas, and Richard S. Ewell. Commissioned as a brevet 2nd lieutenant, Jordan's first assignment was with the 3rd U.S. Infantry in the Florida Territory. In the early years of his extensive military career, Jordan proved a colorful figure, serving in the Second and Third Seminole Wars and the Mexican War under both Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott and in Pacific Northwest, where he served in the Steptoe War from 1857-58. During this same period of time, he also introduced steamboat navigation on the upper reaches of the Columbia River. Taking an extended leave of absence in 1860, then, Captain Jordan penned his first book entitled *The South, Its Products, Commerce, and Resources*. In the wake of Virginia's secession, Jordan tendered his resignation in May 1861 and was commissioned as lieutenant colonel of Virginia troops. Ordered to Manassas Junction, he was promoted colonel and made adjutant general to General P.G.T. Beauregard's Confederate Army of the Potomac. Jordan would follow Beauregard extensively throughout the war usually as senior staff officer and adjutant general of various armies including the Army of Mississippi. Likewise, he would also have his brother, Francis Hubert Jordan (formerly of Page's Company D, 7th Virginia Cavalry) frequently assigned with him as a junior staff officer. Undoubtedly, the senior ranking Jordan also had an influence in the assignment of another younger brother, Macon (former captain of Co. D, 7th Va. Cav.), to General Henry Heth's staff in the east. Colonel Jordan was particularly noted for his exceptional coordination of Confederate reinforcements while he remained at army headquarters at the Wilmer McLean house during the First Battle of Manassas and for his coordination of troops at the Battle of Shiloh following the death of General Albert



Gen. Jordan

Sidney Johnson. For his role at Shiloh, he was promoted brigadier general in September 1862. Jordan was paroled at Greensboro, N.C. on May 1, 1865. Following the war, Jordan was more noted for his work of the pen, including an article of the *Harper's Magazine* which attacked Jefferson Davis as "imperious, narrow, and lacking in administrative talents and statesmanship." In 1866, he edited the *Memphis Appeal* and in 1868, in collaboration with J.B. Pryor, penned his second book entitled *The Campaigns of Lieutenant-General N.B. Forrest*. In 1869, Jordan became involved in the Cuban independence movement and in May, landed on the shores of Cuba at Mayari with three thousand men and weapons and ammunition for six thousand. Successively becoming the chief of staff and later, commander of forces in the rebellion against Spain, in 1870, he met and defeated a numerically superior army at Guaimaro. However with a price of \$100,000 on his head, supplies nearly exhausted and strict enforcement of the neutrality laws by President Grant, Jordan reluctantly resigned his commission and escaped prosecution for his violation of the neutrality laws. Upon his return to the United States, he became editor of the "Financial and Mining Record of New York" and championed the free coinage of silver. In 1887, he wrote the article "Notes of a Confederate Staff Officer at Shiloh" which was included in Volume I of *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. Jordan died on November 27, 1895, and was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, near Hastings-on-the-Hudson.<sup>10</sup>

## Did you know....Luray Native Started Network of Confederate Women Spies

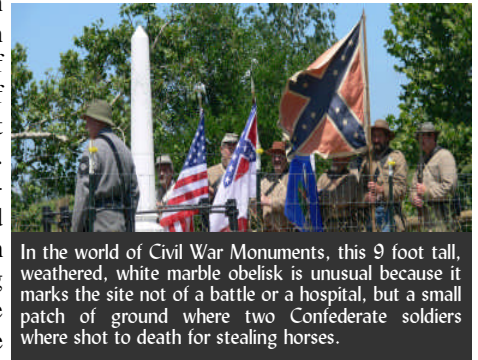
Thomas Jordan not only served as General P.G. T. Beauregard's adjutant general, but was also a successful author, editor and is still held in high regard today by some Cubans as a heroic figure and, ironically, leader in that little Caribbean country's efforts for independence not long after the American Civil War. Jordan spent his early years living at the old Mansion, not destroyed which stood on West Main Street in Luray. Apparently the night before Jordan joined Beauregard's staff in May 1861, the Luray native dined with future Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow. Giving her a code and a phony address to his alias (Thomas John Rayford), he asked her to send him military intelligence. From Jordan, Greenhow also learned the use of a 26-symbol cipher, and "began to exploit her connections with the prominent Unionists for the purpose of eliciting information that she then transmitted in code to relevant figures in the Confederacy." Greenhow and Jordan also devised a means by which she could convey significant information to him or to their trusted assistants by raising and lowering the shades of the windows on one side of her house.<sup>11</sup> Even before the first battle had happened, Greenhow had assembled a complete spy ring. She had spies in the War Department, Navy Department, Adjutant General's Office, and the Senate Military Affairs Committee. Greenhow was even smart enough to put agents in the Provost Marshal's Office, which was the office that was in charge of catching spies. Greenhow often used her body to get information she wanted; she would almost do anything to get information about the Union. Over time, Greenhow and Jordan enlisted the regular help of various others, forming an extensive spy ring that included both men and women. Greenhow was later credited with providing Beauregard with vital information that contributed significantly to the victory at First Manassas on July 21., 1861. The day after the battle, Jordan relayed a message to Greenhow stating that "Our President and our General direct me to thank you. We rely upon you for further information. The Confederacy owes you a debt." Ultimately, Greenhow (and her daughter) were taken into custody for their activities by the Federal army and held in captivity for short terms in the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D. C.<sup>12</sup>



Rose Greenhow

## Did you know....the Summers-Koontz Execution

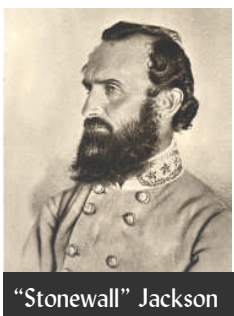
"Try to meet me in Heaven where I hope to go." These poignant words were written in the summer of 1865 by twenty-year-old Confederate Sergeant Isaac Newton Koontz, in a letter he penned for his fiancée just hours before his death at the hands of Union firing squad in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The execution of Koontz and Captain George Summers came after the surrender at Appomattox Court House, and remains one of the most tragic yet little-known events of the Civil War. One month prior to kneeling on the hard ground to face their deaths, Koontz and Summers, along with two other Confederate soldiers, had an altercation with a small band of Union cavalrymen, resulting in the Confederates returning to their homes with horses and other items seized from the bluecoats. Soon after the incident, the young men—remorseful and goaded by their fathers to uphold their honor—returned the horses and were offered a pardon by Union Colonel Francis Butterfield. The Page County Confederates returned home, free of mind and clean of conscious. All had been forgiven. Or so they thought. Well before the sun crept over the horizon on June 27, 1865, Union soldiers—under new command—swarmed the family homes of Summers and Koontz in a swift raid and arrested the two bewildered men. They were told that their pardons were no longer valid, and later that same day they were tied to a stake and shot by a Union firing squad—no trial, no judge, no jury.<sup>13</sup>



In the world of Civil War Monuments, this 9 foot tall, weathered, white marble obelisk is unusual because it marks the site not of a battle or a hospital, but a small patch of ground where two Confederate soldiers where shot to death for stealing horses.

## Did you know....The Grand Parade and Stonewall Jackson

After several weeks in the vicinity of Winchester (in the wake of the battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam), Jackson's men marched up the snow-covered Valley and into Page en route to join Robert E. Lee in the defense of Fredericksburg. Jackson had only recently been promoted to lieutenant general and ultimately, was the commander of one of two of Lee's "wings." General James Longstreet commanded the other "wing." By Monday, November 24, Jackson and his staff had made their way, with a large portion of his "wing" still in tow, to Page County. On that clear and crisp morning, the staff of the hero of Manassas took in the awe inspiring view of the Page Valley below, when, to the surprise of all, Jackson emerged from his tent with an amazing new look. The man that had only recently had his photograph taken in a less than noteworthy frock coat stood before his junior officers in a new coat given him by J.E.B. Stuart, a tall hat given by mapmaker Jedediah Hotchkiss, and a new captured sword given him by a cavalryman. As the men continued to gawk, Jackson announced: "Young gentlemen, this is no longer the headquarters of the Army of the Valley, but of the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia." In the days that followed, Jackson's Corps did not march toward Luray, but rather made its way from the gap in the Massanutten toward the former site of Columbia Bridge near Alma. From there, the approximately 38,000 men (including four divisions and 23 batteries of artillery) marched not along Rt. 340 as some may believe, but along the Honeyville Road toward Marksville, past Graves' Chapel and on to Fisher's Gap via the famous Red Gate Road. To the Page County soldiers among Jackson's Corps, the march through the home county was a great



"Stonewall" Jackson

opportunity for furloughs. Having secured "permission for the entire company to go home" on November 23, Captain Michael Shuler of the Page Grays did not rejoin his regiment until November 27 in Madison County. Private John P. Louderback of the 10th Virginia Infantry determined to "go home and stay at home for several days" by November 23. Finding "all well at home" on November 24, like many civilian residents of the area, he went down to the site of Columbia Bridge to see "our regt Pass over." Continuing to watch the "parade" of troops in the days that followed, at around noon on November 27, he finally witnessed "the rear of the Army pass along" with about "sixty prisoner with them." In addition to the significance of "Stonewall's" exit of the Valley and the "birth" of the Second Corps, the four day event proved significant also for being the largest single assembly of soldiers to pass through Page County at any one time during the war.<sup>14</sup>

## Did you know...Not All Page County Citizens Supported Secession

Some still held firm to the belief in the Union, but remained silent for their support, living in fear of retribution against them for their beliefs. When the public vote was made on the issue of secession, the final count was 1,099 in favor and 4 against, but some, in later years, openly remarked that their lives would have been threatened, preventing them from voting against secession. Others claimed that they had been misled into believing that the only way to prevent the war was to cast a vote for secession. At least two local men (Haynes and Baylor) were killed in Page County because of their stand on Unionism. Thornton Taylor, Thronton a local minister, was regularly threatened near his home near Marksville. He later exiled himself from the county, not to return until after the war, while his son joined a Kentucky regiment of the Union army. Another man, a popular local doctor (James Lee Gillespie) who gave the name to the little village of Alma, was also threatened and left the county, along with his wife and children, one being a son who was a school teacher in Alma. Both father and son joined West Virginia regiments and served for the Union. A local free black, John Dogan of Luray, also openly showed his support for the Union. Threatened with his life, he was forced into service of the Confederate government for a short period as a wagoneer, near Richmond. Even as late as 1864, with the third Confederate draft, many young and old men alive took measures to avoid service with the Confederate Army two 18 year-olds from near Honeyville and Alma ran away in the early spring of 1864, to eastern Virginia. There, they enlisted in the service of a Pennsylvania cavalry regiment. Several locals have been documented as having fled the county for the North and eventually served in the Union army. Some returned to Page after the war, while others did not. Not all those who avoided supporting the Confederacy were Unionists. Some, it might be said, were "localists," concerned more about remaining in the county to better look after their families. Several local Confederate soldiers became disenchanted with the Confederate cause, deserted, and returned to the county, hiding in the local hollows and mountains. They would often fire upon Union soldiers and Confederate soldiers alike, fearing the impact that Union soldiers might have on the county and the well-being of their families and fearing that the Confederate soldiers might try to force the men back into the ranks of the army that was miles away from their homes. In the end, being a Page Countian, a Virginian, and a Southerner did not always mean that these people felt strongly in support of the Confederacy. Rather, the sentiments of people varied and even fluctuated over the course of the war.<sup>15</sup>

## Did you know...the Only Medal of Honor Earned on Page County Soil

In the wake of the tragedy that befell Jubal Early's Confederate Army at Fisher's Hill, cavalry action throughout the Valley and Page County became almost an everyday occurrence for several months in the fall of 1864. On one late September day, a clash of cavalry occurred just north of Luray in which one seemingly unlikely character would earn a Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Page County soil. An Englishman turned "Yank," Private Philip Baybutt was the son of an English merchant and native of Manchester, England. Listed by occupation as a teamster, 18 year-old Baybutt arrived in the United States in either late 1863 or early 1864. Enlisted by Colonel Charles R. Lowell, Jr. at Fall Creek, Massachusetts on February 25, 1864 (though another record shows him as joining at Vienna, Virginia), Baybutt would have the rare distinction to serve as one of the members Company A, 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry. Formerly known as the "California 100," the original group of 100 men had made their



way from the Bear State and were initially attached to the Massachusetts cavalry regiment for service in the eastern theater. As one who enlisted in the company well after its initial organization, Baybutt was recruited to replenish the ranks of the depleted company. Additionally, if Baybutt had come seeking adventure, he had certainly enrolled in the right company as the 2nd Massachusetts would often find themselves in action against Mosby's famous band of rangers. On September 24, 1864 however, Mosby was not the issue. Following the fight that had occurred at Milford (Overall), Colonel W.H.F. Payne's brigade of Confederate cavalry had fallen back to Luray as a result of the Federal withdrawal to Front Royal. Clearly seeing an opportunity, General George A. Custer, accompanied by Colonel Lowell, with two Federal Cavalry brigades (including Baybutt's regiment) and artillery advanced toward Luray. Somewhere between the county border and Luray, the clash of cavalry occurred. Badly outnumbered and outgunned, the Confederates were quickly overwhelmed, losing several men as prisoners. Additionally, sometime in the heated melee, Baybutt seized the regimental flag of the 6th Virginia Cavalry for which he was later (October 1864) awarded the Medal of Honor. In all, by the close of the war, the 5' 2 1/2" Englishman participated in seven or eight battles and in excess of 50 skirmishes. Additionally, he had lost two horses killed-in-action and was himself wounded twice (once at Opequon Creek just ten days before the Luray fight) before suffering a hard fall from one of his horses while in the Shenandoah Valley. Sometime following his discharge at Fairfax Court House on July 20, 1865, Private Baybutt returned to England and worked at his father's mercantile business. Married to Harriet Jones (listed as a 24 year-old "spinster" of Leicester) on December 26, 1872, the former Federal cavalryman and his wife would raise eight children. In later years, Baybutt suffered a great deal from the fall from his

horse during the war and applied for a veteran's pension from the United States in January 1904. Though he had at least three former comrades' written testimony as to the seriousness of the incident, his application was rejected in February 1906. Three years later, on April 17, 1909, the former hero of the little fight near Luray - now a 63 year-old shipping clerk, died from "exhaustion" in addition to other ailments experienced as a result of the war. In the wake of Philip's death, his wife of over thirty-years applied for a Union Veteran widow's pension and received an allowance of \$8.00 per month by the United States. Ultimately, it was an ironic ending for a man that had been awarded the United States' highest military medal and had given loyal service in a war which was neither his own fight nor that of his country.<sup>16</sup>

## Did you know...One Yankee's Recollections of Marching through Page

On May 12, 1862, the 4th Ohio Infantry along with other elements of General James Shield's division made its way from New Market to Luray. One member of the Buckeye regiment took the opportunity to make note of his passage through the Luray Valley. Writing a series of reports for the Cincinnati Daily Times William C. Crippen assumed the pen name of "Invisible." Upon crossing the Massanutten toward Luray, the Federal soldiers eagerly anticipated the "rich treat" of a view upon reaching the high point of the mountain. Crippen wrote that the site to be held was "one of the most cheering in this part of Virginia." As they made their way down the gap to Luray, Crippen noted that the "whole mountain glistened with bayonets, and the rumbling noise of the artillery and the immense baggage train, echoing and re-echoing, sounded like distant thunder. "Twice along the route, the men of the 4th Ohio "stopped to refresh" themselves "at the dashing, splashing natural mountain fountains, as clear as crystal and almost as cold as ice." Having marched along dusty roads in an unusually hot May climate, the column finally made "a long halt for rest on Cave Hill." According to Crippen, "all gladly sought the shelter of a forest strongly sprinkled with pine. Gen. Kimball and I made a pillow out of a knotty tree root and were lying there puffing our pipes and brushing off mosquitoes . . . ." In passing through the town that was responsible for sending a large number of men off to war in Confederate gray, "Invisible" seemed surprised at the reception. At one point, the Ohio man was particularly moved by observing one "intelligent, well-dressed citizen sitting in front of his house." As a Yankee band struck up the strains of 'Hail Columbia,' he noticed that this man was "sensibly affected." Ultimately, the Page County gentleman was "very talkative" and was moved to pronounce: "This is a great army sir. You come down on us like the locusts of Egypt and can destroy us if you choose. This is a dreadful state of affairs in our country, brothers against brothers and fathers against sons, but my conscious is clear. I fought secession, sir, fought it with all my might, but when my State went out of the Union I felt bound to go with her. I had queer feelings when I heard the national air today; I love the old flag and the Union. What a great army this is. If you have many such, you will soon overrun the whole South." When the Page man was informed that there would be more brigades arriving the following day, he confessed that "the South may as well give up at once. . ." On continuing his sojourn through Luray, Crippen was also quick to note that judging from "various little incidents . . . there is a good deal of smothered Union feeling in the town." Several people flocked to the streets and "gave bread and other edibles to the soldiers and would not take a cent as remuneration." At one house near the city one local lady was so excited at the Yankee arrival as to express her mood by waving "her cambric quite vigorously as the army passed." While greeted by a number of supporters, the Buckeye also remembered that "The genuine Secessionist, male and female, can be distinguished as soon as seen. They either have a hangdog look or attempt to speak defiance in their demeanor." <sup>17</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, Gallant Leaders of the "Page Volunteers", Company K, 10th Virginia 12/18/97, Page 53-54

<sup>2</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, Marching with Stonewall, Leaders and Men of the "Page Grays", 6/4/98, Page 55-56

<sup>3</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, Page County's Sole Artillery Battery - The Dixie Artillery, 3/9/00, Page 57-58

<sup>4</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, Page County's Confederate Reserve & Militia Organizations, Page 59-60

<sup>5</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, The Stern Discipline of Stonewall Jackson and the Hard-Luck Grays, 12/21/00, Page 79-80

<sup>6</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, A Yankee Represented Page in the 1861 Concession, 5/7/98, Page 48-50

<sup>7</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, Former Page Confederate Served as Speaker of US House, 9/16/99, Page 130-131

<sup>8</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 2, Robert H. Moore, II, Union Soldiers and their Accounts of Page County Slaves, 2/27/03, Page 91-92

<sup>9</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 2, Robert H. Moore, II, One Page County Confederate and John Wilkes Booth, 11/14/02, Page 107-108

<sup>10</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 2, Robert H. Moore, II, Luray Native Started Network of Confederate Women Spies, 8/22/02, Page 77-78

<sup>11</sup> Rose O'Neal Greenhow, The "Rebel Rose" of Civil War, <http://www.onealwebsite.com/rose3.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 2, Robert H. Moore, II, Luray Native Started Network of Confederate Women Spies, 8/22/02, Page 77-78

<sup>13</sup> Tragedy in the Shenandoah Valley: The Story of the Summers-Koontz Execution; [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1850/TragedyintheShenandoah.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1850/TragedyintheShenandoah.html)

<sup>14</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, The Grand "Parade" and the Last Passage of Stonewall From the Valley, 12/21/00, Page 77-78

<sup>15</sup> Robert H. Moore, II, E-mail correspondence to Sharon Sampsell dated 9/3/2009

<sup>16</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, An English Yankee and the Only Medal of Honor Earned on Page County Soil, 6/3/99, Page 96-97

<sup>17</sup> Short Historical Sketches of Page County, Virginia and Its People, Volume 1, Robert H. Moore, II, One Yankee's Recollections of Marching through Page, 6/7/99, Page 67-68

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