

The Civil War Military Service of Albert Watson Lovelace of Rutherford County, North Carolina

Lesson 14, Assignment 2a

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In the years leading up to the American Civil War, Rutherford County, North Carolina was home to Green and Martha Lovelace and their family.¹ Their son Albert Watson Lovelace was born on 29 August 1842, nearly twenty years before the beginning of the war.² Albert served in the Army of the Confederate States of America as outlined in his Confederate compiled service record (CSR).³ He was captured and imprisoned, but that did not mark the end of his military career. He went on to join the U.S. Army, and his service for the Union is detailed in his Union compiled service record.⁴ Details of his military service are recounted below.

It was mid-May in 1860, roughly seven months before South Carolina seceded from the United States.⁵ On the 14th day of the month, Albert Lovelace, a lad of 17 years, married Miss Margaret Jane Bailey.⁶ Just over two years after Albert's marriage, on 16 April 1862, the Congress of the Confederate States of America enacted the First Conscription Act, which essentially called all white men between the ages of 18 and 35 into military service for the Confederacy.⁷ Albert began his service in the Confederate Army on 20 August 1862. His Confederate CSR, consisting of an index and 17 service cards, shows that he was conscripted into the Confederate Army and enlisted on that date in Statesville, Iredell County, North Carolina in Co. F, 18th Regiment of the North Carolina Infantry.

¹ 1860 U.S. Census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Sandy Run District, p. 12 (penned), dwelling 82, family 80, Green and Martha Loveless; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 913.

² Stephen Collis Jones, *The Hamrick Generations: Being a Genealogy of the Hamrick Family* (Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., 1920), p. 146. Also, loose list of names and dates of birth, in family Bible of Selenas Jolley (1875-1954), privately held by Mr. Randy Lee Henderson, Chesnee, South Carolina, 2013. Selenas Jolly was the husband of Martha Louisa Lovelace, the niece of Albert Watson Lovelace.

³ *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of North Carolina*, compiled service record for Albert Lovelace, Pvt., Co. F, 18th Regiment North Carolina Infantry, Civil War; digital images, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 13 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M270, roll 263.

⁴ *Compiled Service Records of Former Confederate Soldiers who Served in the 1st Through 6th U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiments, 1864-1866*, compiled service record for Albert Lovelace, Pvt., Co. G, 1st Regiment U. S. Volunteer Infantry, Civil War; digital images, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 13 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M1017, roll 8.

⁵ Civil War Trust (<http://www.civilwar.org> : accessed 17 Jun 2013), "Fort Sumter: Facts and Resources."

⁶ Miles S. Philbeck, "The Braddy / Brady Bunch," *Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County* 40:2 (May 2012): 63-68, specifically 67. Also, Rutherford County, North Carolina, Marriage Registers, L:85, Lovelace-Bradley, 1860; Register of Deeds Office, Rutherfordton; digital image by W. D. Floyd. *W. D. Floyd Website on CD*, CD-ROM #6 (Forest City: The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, 2005). The day on the image of the marriage register is obscured in the binding of the book, but the month and year are clearly visible.

⁷ Laura June Davis, *The Civil War Monitor* (<http://www.civilwarmonitor.com> : accessed 17 Jun 2013), "The Start of Confederate Conscription."

Co. F of the 18th Regiment, known as “The Scotch Boys,” was originally formed in Richmond County, North Carolina.⁸ By April of 1862 the regiment, along with others, had moved to an encampment at Kinston, North Carolina where it received reinforcements.⁹ This was apparently when Albert Lovelace arrived from Statesville and finally joined his regiment. He was present with that company from April 1862 to April 1863, being paid on 28 Feb 1862 and 30 April 1863 by Captain Cazaux, quartermaster.

The 18th Regiment left Kinston on 7 May 1862, marching north through Virginia and into Maryland, seeing action in several major battles before arriving at and taking part in the battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania 1-3 July 1863. General Robert E. Lee withdrew on 4 July and retreated to Hagerstown, Maryland. The 18th Regiment was part of a rear guard in Hagerstown as Lee and his army left and crossed the Potomac River into Virginia.¹⁰ Union troops attempted to capture Hagerstown on 6 July 1863, but were turned back by Confederate fighters, including members of the 18th Regiment. On 12 July, a second attempt to capture the town, led by General George A. Custer, succeeded.¹¹

Albert Lovelace’s Confederate CSR reports that he was taken prisoner at Hagerstown on 11 or 12 July, 1863. He is listed “absent” on muster rolls for July-August 1863 and January 1864 through February 1865, with various mentions of his capture in Hagerstown. On the card for March & April 1864 Albert is “reported to have taken the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. gov’t.” The card for June 30 to October 31, 1864 confirms that he has sworn allegiance to the U. S. The report for January & February 1865 notes that his name was “cancelled on Roll,” and he is listed as appearing on a Roll of Honor of his company and regiment.

The last three cards in Albert’s Confederate CSR deal with his confinement, release and entry into the U.S. Army. He was sent from Baltimore, Maryland to Point Lookout, Maryland on 20 August 1863, arriving the next day. He was released on 24 January 1864 at Point Lookout after swearing allegiance and “joining the United States service.” The final card in the folder contains a note from a Mr. O. B. Brown to a Mr. G. A.

⁸ Walter Clark, editor, *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-’65*, 5 vols. (Goldsboro, North Carolina: Nash Brothers, Book and Job Printers, 1901), 2:16; digital images, *North Carolina Digital Collections* (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p249901coll22/id/266419/rec/4> : accessed 18 Jun 2013).

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p21-45.

¹¹ “Maryland’s Civil War,” *CivilWarTraveler* (<http://www.civilwartraveler.com/EAST/MD/antietam.html> : accessed 18 Jun 2013).

Whitcomb asking for an identity check for A. Lovelace on a card from Point Lookout. Mr. Whitcomb confirmed on 7 December 1908 that the A. Lovelace was Albert Lovelace.

So Albert Lovelace became what is referred to as a “galvanized yankee”, one of a group of soldiers who switched sides during the war in order to avoid the hardships and disease prevalent in prisoner of war camps on both sides of the conflict.¹² Albert’s Union CSR contains, in addition to the cards detailing his service, his medical examination and enlistment papers. His medical exam shows that he was recruited by a Lt. Norcross and examined by William Child, assistant surgeon of the 5th New Hampshire Volunteers. Albert was described as a 21-year-old farmer, born in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He reported that he had been ill with a fever (maybe typhoid) in 1860, but that he was in good health both mentally and physically. The only abnormality listed was “cicatrix on ends of 1st & 2nd fingers of left hand.” Albert was apparently declared fit for duty.

The volunteer enlistment document shows that Albert volunteered on 24 January 1864 as a seaman in the U. S. Navy. He declared that he was by occupation a farmer, 21 years of age, born in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He swore allegiance at Point Lookout, Maryland, to the United States before Lt. Norcross of the 30th Regiment, Massachusetts volunteers, signing his enlistment paper with an “X”. William Child then certified his fitness for duty, and Lt. Norcross certified that he had examined Albert and found him to be sober when he enlisted, and that he was of legal age to serve. He describes Albert as 5 feet 7 inches tall, with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. However, the areas on the form for entering the date of muster and the units were not filled in.

The original idea for enlisting Confederate prisoners into the forces of the United States was offered by General Gilman Marston, the commanding officer at Point Lookout, Maryland, who suggested that those prisoners enter the Navy. Secretary of War William Stanton approved this suggestion in December 1863. President Lincoln later authorized the formation of the 1st United States Volunteer Infantry, allowing the entry of Confederate prisoners into the U. S. Army, on 5 March 1864.¹³ As a result, following his original enlistment in the Navy, Albert Lovelace was enlisted in the Army, as evidenced by a second set of enlistment papers from the District of St. Mary’s, State of Maryland.

¹² “The Galvanized Yankees,” National Park Service, *Jefferson National Expansion Memorial*, (www.nps.gov/jeff/historyculture/upload/galvanized_yankees.pdf : accessed 24 June 2013), para. 2; reprinted from *The Museum Gazette*, July 1992.

¹³ *Wikipedia* (<http://www.wikipedia.org>), “Galvanized Yankees,” rev. 03:52, 21 Jun 2013, citing Dee Brown, *The Galvanized Yankees* (1963; reprint, Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1985).

These papers give an identical description of Albert and the same enlistment date as above. The date of Albert's oath on this document is given as 29 April 1864, nearly three months after the Navy enlistment, and shows that the oath was administered in Norfolk, Virginia before B. Wilson, 1st Lt. of Company C of the 1st U.S. Volunteers. Albert signed the oath with an "X".

Albert was re-examined by E. H. W. Herri[? Herrish, Herrick?] who pronounced him fit for duty. 2nd Lt. M. C. Backerman, recruiting officer, certified his sobriety, age, and qualifications to serve, describing him, as in his first enlistment, as 5 feet 7 inches tall, with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. He was mustered into Co. G of the 1st Regiment of U.S. Volunteers on 1 May 1864 at Norfolk. The Declaration of Recruit section on the reverse side of the enlistment paper was given at Norfolk on 29 April, 1864. Albert declared he had never been discharged due to disability or court-martial and had no knowledge of any impediment to his service. He signed with an X, witnessed by Lt. Backerman. However, the good lieutenant mistakenly wrote his name as Stephen Lovelace. This mistake necessitated a third set of enlistment papers. Every item was entered identically to the preceding document except that Albert's name was written correctly by Lt. Backerman. With these documents, Albert entered the Army of the United States. His Union CSR consists of an index, eighteen service cards, and a card which points to the 3 enlistment papers and the single medical examination.

Company G of the 1st United States Volunteers saw limited action in Virginia and North Carolina before General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the entire regiment to be moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.¹⁴ Grant believed that the Confederate troops should not be put into the position of fighting against the Confederate Army, so he assigned them to the frontier to help put down rebellions of native Americans.¹⁵ Co. G was one of four companies of the 1st U. S. Volunteers to be sent to Minnesota, being posted at Fort Ripley near Little Falls, Minnesota. They were moved to Fort Fletcher in Kansas to protect the stagecoach route of the Butterfield Overland Despatch [*sic*]. The company was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on 22 May 1866.¹⁶ These movements of Co. G correspond with what is found in Albert's Union CSR.

The first several cards in Albert's Union CSR repeat the information contained in his enlistment papers and show that he enlisted for three years. He was listed as a private, present on muster rolls from the time of his enlistment through August 1864. In

¹⁴ *Wikipedia*, "Galvanized Yankees," rev. 03:52, 21 Jun 2013.

¹⁵ U.S. National Archives, *Compiled Service Records of Former Confederate Soldiers Who Served in the 1st Through 6th U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiments 1864-1866*, Descriptive Pamphlet M1017, Web edition, *The National Archives* (<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/>, M1017 typed into search box : accessed 24 June 2013), 3.

¹⁶ *Wikipedia*, "Galvanized Yankees," rev. 03:52, 21 Jun 2013.

September and October 1864, he was “absent on Northern Stockade Line,” and then again listed present from November 1864 to April 1866. A summary of his appearance on returns has these entries:

- “Oct. 1864. Absent on northern stockade since Oct 15/64
- Jan 1865. On duty taking care of horses.
- April 1865. On duty taking care of horses in Q M. Dept.
- June 1865. On duty. Co. cook
- Dec 1865. On duty. Co. cook
- Jan 1866. On duty. Teamster
- Feb to April, 1866. On duty in Q. M. Dept.”

A return for January 1866 locates Albert at Fort Fletcher, Kansas, as a teamster in the quartermaster (QM) department. The final data card shows that he was mustered out of Co. G at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas as a private on 21 May 1866. He had been paid to 28 February 1866, and his clothing allowance had been last settled on 31 December 1865. He was given \$4.62 for “cloth’g in kind or money adv’d.”

Albert’s movements immediately following his departure from the Union Army are not yet known. However, his wife, Margaret Jane Bailey Lovelace, married his cousin Lewis Green Lovelace in Rutherford County, North Carolina on 20 October 1866.¹⁷ Whether she divorced Albert or thought him killed in the war is yet to be determined. Albert is found in 1870 living in Greenville, Butler County, Alabama, with wife Elizabeth and at least one child, a son William age 1, who could belong to him.¹⁸ In 1880, Albert is living in Tuckers Store, Beat 15, Montgomery County, Alabama with wife Nancy A. and son William from 1870, along with an infant daughter Margaret E.¹⁹

Albert applied for a pension from the U.S. government for his service in Co. G of the 1st Regiment of U. S. Volunteers on 19 July 1888, and his widow applied for a pension in

¹⁷ Rutherford County, North Carolina, Marriage Registers, L:232, Lovelace-Lovelace, 1866; Register of Deeds Office, Rutherfordton; digital image by W. D. Floyd. *W. D. Floyd Website on CD*, CD-ROM #6 (Forest City: The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, 2005). Margaret is listed in the register as “Margaret Lovelace,” and the death certificates of several of her children confirm that her maiden name was “Bailey.”

¹⁸ 1870 U.S. Census, Butler County, Alabama, population schedule, Township No. 11, Greenville P.O., p. 116 (penned), dwelling 958, family 958, Albert and Elizabeth Loveless; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 5. Child Adeline is age 13 and is not Albert’s child, having been born before he joined the Confederate Army in North Carolina. Child William is age 1 and could be Albert’s son, having been born in 1869, three years after the end of Albert’s service in the Union Army.

¹⁹ 1880 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Alabama, population schedule, Township No. 11, Greenville P.O., p. 516 (stamped), enumeration district 45, p. 27 (penned), dwelling 262, family 274, Albert and Nancy A. Lovelace; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 27.

1890.²⁰ Albert died on 20 July 1890 and is buried in Elliottsville Cemetery, Alabaster, Shelby County, Alabama.²¹

This account of the military life of Albert Watson Lovelace of Rutherford County, North Carolina leaves many unanswered questions which require further research outside of the scope of this assignment. Why did Albert's first wife remarry after the end of Albert's service with the Union Army? Did she divorce him, or did she believe that he had died in the war? Are the two wives found with Albert in the Alabama census records of 1870 and 1880 the same woman? What information is contained in the file holding the pension applications for Albert and his widow Elizabeth? With sufficient time and monetary resources, the answers to these questions might be found. But at this point in time they must remain unanswered until further research can be done.

²⁰ *Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*, Albert Lovelace, Co. G, 1st Regiment U. S. Volunteer Infantry; digital image, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 29 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication T289, roll 679. Also, *U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934*, Albert Lovelace, Co. G, 1st Regiment U. S. Volunteer Infantry; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 Jun 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication T288, roll 289. The widow is unnamed in in the first index and is named "Elizabeth" in the second index. The date in the first index is 1 Nov 1890, while the month and day in the second index is illegible. The mention of Elizabeth as Albert's widow in 1890 brings into question the identity of the wife in the 1880 census. Are Elizabeth and Nancy A. the same person? NARA was contacted about obtaining copies of the pension files for Albert and his widow, but the cost at this time was prohibitive.

²¹ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 29 June 2013); Record, Albert Lovelace, Memorial No. 43666797, "Records of the Elliottsville Cemetery, Alabaster, Shelby County, Alabama;" record copyright A. Cook (provided he hasn't relinquished). The day and month of birth on the gravestone correspond with records found in the previously cited family Bible, but the year is off by one year.