



George Logan Lovelace of Rutherford County, North Carolina

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On a winter's day in 1845 in the rolling hills of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Cynthia Hollifield Lovelace first held her new baby boy. George Logan Lovelace, my great-grandfather, was the first-born son of William and Cynthia Hollifield Lovelace, entering this world on 13 February 1845.¹ William and Cynthia lived on their farm in the Sandy Run District of the county, raising their family near the farm of Robert and Mary "Polly" (Bridges) Green.² On 19 September 1856, George was received "by experience" into Walls Baptist Church, located north of Ellenboro, North Carolina.³ His grandfather Benjamin Lovelace had helped to found the church in 1844.⁴ Walls Church would be his life-long house of worship and his final resting place.

During George's teenage years, the political climate in the country was growing tense. On 20 December 1860, when he was 15, the neighboring state of South Carolina seceded from the United States. On 20 May 1861, North Carolina followed several other southern states, seceding from the Union.⁵ From the relative safety of the Rutherford County hills, George watched the developments until, on 12 February 1863, the day before his 18th birthday, he enlisted in Co. I of the 56th North Carolina Infantry Regiment of the Army of the Confederacy.⁶ During the war, George's unit saw combat in the swamps of eastern North Carolina around Kinston.⁷ Late in 1863 he was in the

¹ "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 August 2013), digital image, George Logan Lovelace, 3 June 1915, no. 428, North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

² 1850 U. S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Sandy Run District, p. 640 (penned), dwelling 1306, family 1340, Robert Green; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 September 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 644. Also 1850 U. S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Piney Mountains, p. 641 (penned), 321 (stamped), dwelling 1304, family 1338, William Lovelace; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 September 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 644. Also 1860 U. S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Oak Springs, Sandy Run District, p. 3 (penned), 277 (stamped), dwelling 18, family 18, Wm Loveless; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 September 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 913. Also 1860 U. S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Oak Springs, Sandy Run District, p. 11 (penned), 281 (stamped), dwelling 79, family 77, Robert Green; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 September 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 913.

³ *Walls Baptist Church, (Bostic, North Carolina), Minutes and Register 1844-1971*, 19-21 September 1856; microfilm R.086.01021, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p3, 1844.

⁵ "150th Anniversary Timeline." *Civil War Trust* (<http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/this-day-in-the-civil-war.html> : accessed 8 September 2013).

⁶ *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of North Carolina*, compiled service record for G. L. C. Loveless, Pvt., Co. I, 56th Regiment North Carolina Infantry, Civil War; digital images, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 4 September 2013); citing NARA microfilm publication M270, roll 522.

⁷ Robert D. Graham, "Fifty-sixth Regiment," in 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), 3:313-404; digital images, *North Carolina Digital Collections* (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p249901coll22/id/266419/rec/4> : accessed 18 Jun 2013).

hospital in Salisbury, North Carolina, for reasons as yet undiscovered.⁸ More combat followed for Co. I and the 56th NC in and around Plymouth, NC in the spring of 1864.⁹ Following the "Plymouth Campaign," the unit saw combat in and around Petersburg, Virginia and took part in the nearly year-long defense of that city, including the Battle of the Crater on 30 July 1864. The 56th was finally defeated in the Battle of Five Forks on 1 April 1865.¹⁰ George survived the battle, and on 6 April 1865 he was captured in Farmville, Virginia. He was paroled on 9 April 1865 with the surrender of Confederate forces by General Robert E. Lee and took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States on 15 June 1865.¹¹ After two years away, George Logan Lovelace was finally going home.

The date of George's homecoming is not known. But following his return, he was married on 8 February 1866 to Mary Jane Green by Abram P. Hollifield, Justice of the Peace.¹² Mary Jane, born 10 May 1846, was the daughter of Robert and Mary "Polly" Bridges Green.¹³ As stated earlier, the Lovelace and Green families were farm families who had lived near each other as George and Mary Jane were growing up. George took up farming, and the couple began to grow their family.

The first child of George and Mary Jane, Laura Jane Lovelace, was born on 30 November 1866.¹⁴ Their first son, Ascoglenolvie "Nolvey" Lovelace, followed on 18 August 1868.¹⁵ The family is listed in the 1870 census in Mooresboro, Colfax Township, with George engaged in farming.¹⁶ By the spring of 1880, the family had grown significantly. In December of 1870, Tliman Lucas "Luke" Lovelace, entered the world.¹⁷

⁸ Compiled service record, G. L. C. Loveless, Pvt., Co. I, 56th N.C. Infantry, Civil War; *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 4 September 2013).

⁹ Graham, "Fifty-sixth Regiment," 337-49.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 350-99.

¹¹ Compiled service record, G. L. C. Loveless, Pvt., Co. I, 56th N.C. Infantry, Civil War; *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 4 September 2013).

¹² Rutherford County, North Carolina, Marriage Registers, 1851-1866, p. 199, Lovelace-Green, 8 February 1866; Register of Deeds Office, Rutherfordton; digital image L:112 by W. D. Floyd. *W.D. Floyd Website on CD*, CD-ROM #6 (Forest City: The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, 2005).

¹³ "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012), digital image, Mary Jane Lovelace, 10 May 1918, no. 373, North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

¹⁴ "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 September 2013), death certificate image, Mrs. Laura Jane McIntyre, 15 February 1943, no. 3 (penned), 336 (stamped), North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

¹⁵ "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 September 2013), death certificate image, Osco Glen Nolby Lovelace, 29 June 1931, no. 15 (penned), 298 (stamped), North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

¹⁶ 1870 U. S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Mooresboro Post Office, Colfax Township, p. 7 (penned), 32 (stamped), dwelling 50, family 50, George Lovelace; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 September 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M593, roll 1159.

¹⁷ 1900 U.S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Colfax Township, Enumeration District (ED) 131, sheet 10-A, p. 48 (stamped), dwelling 179, family 179, T. L. Lovlass; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 September 2013), citing FHL microfilm publication 1,241,216.

Eliza Rixie Vandora “Van” Lovelace followed *circa* 1873.¹⁸ Two years later, on 30 June 1875, Mary Jane gave birth to her third son James Dolphus “Jim” Lovelace.¹⁹ Geneva “Neve” Lovelace came next, born 10 Feb 1878.²⁰

On 21 October 1879, when George’s parents William and Cynthia were in their early 70s, they, along with George’s siblings, transferred property rights to a tract of land to George and Mary Jane, effective after their deaths.²¹ In their turn, George and Mary Jane ceded their rights in an adjoining tract of land to George’s brother Morgan Ross Lovelace.²² William and Cynthia, getting on in years, were apparently looking to the future of their two sons and making sure they each had a share of the farm after their parents passed on.

The spring of 1880 saw another addition to the family of George and Mary Jane. My grandfather Joseph Baxter “Joe” Lovelace, their youngest son, drew his first breath on 22 April 1880.²³ The 1880 census of Colfax for George and Mary Jane’s family includes all seven of their children, with George still making his living as a farmer.²⁴

The period of 1880-1900 brought many changes to George’s family. Sometime around 1882, his mother Cynthia died.²⁵ Mary Jane gave birth to her youngest child, Cynthia Olavine “Ollie” Lovelace, on 16 January 1884.²⁶ In late 1888 or early 1889, George’s father William passed away, and he came into possession of the farmland left to him in

¹⁸ 1880 U.S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Colfax Township, Enumeration District (ED) 161, p. 7-8 (penned), 500 (stamped), dwelling 59, family 66, George Lovelace; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 September 2013), citing FHL microfilm publication 1,254,981.

¹⁹ “North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975,” *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 September 2013), death certificate image, James Dolphus Lovelace, 20 January 1945, no. 2 (penned), 3502 (stamped), North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

²⁰ Walls Baptist Church Cemetery (Rutherford County, North Carolina; 4.5 miles NNW of Ellenboro via Piney Mountain Road and Walls Church Road), Robert, Geneva (Lovelace) and Lawrence McEntire marker; photographed by Greg Lovelace, June 2000.

²¹ Rutherford County, North Carolina, Deed Book 62: 162-3, Wm Lovelace and wife Cintha Lovelace, M. R. Lovelace and wife U. J. Lovelace, B. W. Philbeck and wife E. A. Philbeck, and M. P. Green to George Lovelace, 21 October 1879; Register of Deeds Office, Rutherfordton.

²² *Ibid.*, pp. 170-2, Wm Lovelace and wife Cintha Lovelace, George Lovelace, M. J. Lovelace, M. P. Green, B. W. Philbeck and wife E. A. Philbeck to M. R. Lovelace, 21 Oct 1879.

²³ Walls Baptist Church Cemetery (Rutherford County, North Carolina; 4.5 miles NNW of Ellenboro via Piney Mountain Road and Walls Church Road), Joseph Baxter and Arrie (Wright) Lovelace marker; photographed by Greg Lovelace, July 2013.

²⁴ 1880 U.S. census, Rutherford Co., N.C., pop. sch., Colfax Twp., ED 161, p. 7-8 (penned), 500 (stamped), dwell. 59, fam. 66, George Lovelace.

²⁵ Rutherford County, North Carolina, Deed Book 62: 172, M. R. Lovelace and wife Jane and Wm Lovelace to John Walker, 17 January 1883. Deeds for William previous to this date had included Cynthia’s name. This deed omitted any mention of her, suggesting that she had died by this date.

²⁶ Edith Inez Lovelace Jenkins, Morganton, North Carolina, to Gregory Lee Lovelace, letter, 26 May 1991, listing the marriages and children for some of the descendants of George Logan and Mary Jane Green Lovelace; Personal Correspondence; Lovelace Family, Lovelace Research Files; privately held by Lovelace, Charleston, South Carolina.

the deeds of 1879.²⁷ The children were beginning to grow into adulthood, and they began to marry and start families of their own. Luke was the first to tie the knot, marrying Leckie Lavenia Wright on 11 Feb 1890.²⁸ Vandora was next, marrying Marcus Lawson Rogers on 28 March 1890.²⁹ And making it a trio of marriages in that year, Nolvie married Biddie Mary Jane Hamrick on 31 July 1890 in neighboring Cleveland County, N. C.³⁰

After an interval of about eighteen months, another wedding took place, again in Cleveland County. Laura Jane Lovelace married Richard McEntire on 05 Jan 1892.³¹ Following another space of four years, Laura's brother Jim married Beuna Leanna Blankenship on 6 February 1896.³² Later in the spring of that year, Neve married Robert McIntyre on 10 May 1896.³³ The 1900 census of Colfax reflected these changes, listing George and Mary Jane with two their two remaining children, Joph (Joseph) and Olivine.³⁴ It was sometime around this time period or a little earlier that George and Mary Jane gathered the family together, and photographs were taken to commemorate the occasion (see Figures 1 and 2).³⁵ Shortly after the photos were taken, the youngest son Joe married Ollie Wright, sister of Leckie Lavenia Wright Lovelace.³⁶ The exact date and circumstances are unknown, but shortly after the marriage, Ollie died, and on 9 March 1902 Joe married her sister Arrie, my grandmother.³⁷ George and Mary Jane now had only one child, their daughter Ollie, living with them. George was 57 years old, Mary Jane was 56, and Ollie was 18.

²⁷ Rutherford Co., N. C., Deed Book 62: 162-3 and 170-2. George and his brother Morgan filed these deeds for registration at the court house, suggesting that William was deceased and that they now had legal claim to the land.

²⁸ "Rutherford County, NC Marriage License Photos", no. 1233, T. L. Lovelace to L. L. Wright, 11 February 1890; 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).

²⁹ *Ibid.*, no. 1246, E. V. Lovelace to Lawson Rodgers, 28 March 1890.

³⁰ "North Carolina, Marriages, 1759-1979," index, *FamilySearch* (<http://familysearch.org>: accessed 18 Sep 2013), A. G. Lovelace and B. J. Hamrick, 31 Jul 1890.

³¹ *Ibid.*, D. R. McEntire and Larah Jane Lovelace, 05 Jan 1892.

³² "Rutherford County, NC Marriage License Photos", no. 1770, J. D. Lovelace to Anna Blankenship, 6 February 1896.

³³ "North Carolina, Marriages, 1759-1979," (accessed 19 Sep 2013), Robert McEntire and G. F. Lovelace, 10 May 1896.

³⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Colfax Township, Enumeration District (ED) 131, sheet 8-A, p. 46 (stamped), dwelling 142, family 142, G. L. Lovlass; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 March 2011), citing FHL microfilm publication 1,241,216.

³⁵ George Logan Lovelace family photographs, ca. 1899; digital images ca. 1995, privately held by Gregory Lee Lovelace, Charleston, South Carolina. Obtained from Edith Inez Lovelace Jenkins, Morganton, North Carolina, and Chivous Cecil Lovelace of Forest City, North Carolina. Location and condition of originals is unknown.

³⁶ "Rutherford County, NC Marriage License Photos", no. 2485, J. B. Lovelace to Ollie Wright, 7 March 1901.

³⁷ "Rutherford County, NC Marriage License Photos", no. 2405, Joseph B. Lovelace to Arey Wright, 9 March 1902.



Figure 1: The family of George Logan and Mary Jane Lovelace. Seated, left to right: Ascoglenolvie, George, Mary Jane, Laura Jane. Standing, left to right: Joseph Baxter, James Dolphus, Tilman Lucas, Eliza Rixie Vandora, Geneva, Cynthia Olavine



Figure 2: The extended family of George Logan and Mary Jane Lovelace. Standing on porch: George and Mary Jane. Seated on porch: Joseph Baxter. Adults, left to right: Ascoglenolvie and Biddie Hamrick Lovelace, Cynthia Olavine, Garmon and Eliza Vandora Lovelace Rayburn, Robert and Geneva Lovelace McEntire, Richard and Laura Jane Lovelace McIntyre, James Dolphus and Leanna Blankenship Lovelace, and Tilman Lucas and Leckie Wright Lovelace, all with grandchildren of various ages, as are the children standing in the front.

Following Joe's second marriage in 1902, for as yet undetermined reasons, George and Mary Jane decided to sell their land in Colfax. Perhaps George was trying to downsize his farm, given that all his children save one teenage girl had families of their own. Or perhaps he was trying to improve his financial affairs in order to provide a legacy for his children at his death. Whatever his reasons, in 1905, he and Mary Jane sold a tract of land to J. C. Green of Colfax.³⁸ A year or so later, they sold another tract in Colfax to L. A. Padgett of neighboring Cleveland County.³⁹ At the same time, they purchased a tract from Padgett and his wife "on the headwaters of Robertson's Creek" in Logans Store Township.⁴⁰ It is there in Logans Store, on the Morganton Road, that George is listed in the 1910 census, as George L. Lovelace, with wife Mary J. and daughter Ollie V. (Olavine). Also in the home are son James A. (James Dolphus), daughter-in-law Anner (Beuna Leanna), and granddaughters Zennie L. and Mary C., daughters of James and Leanna.⁴¹

George lived in Logans Store for the remainder of his life, passing away on 3 June 1915. No doctor was consulted, and the cause of his death is not known. He was just over 70 years of age when he died. He was buried in Walls Baptist Church Cemetery the day after his death.⁴²

George left no will. His estate entered into administration in September of 1916, over a year after his death. His widow Mary Jane declined her appointment as administratrix of the estate and instead deferred to her eldest son Nolvie for that duty. On 10 October 1916, Nolvie, signing as A. G. Lovelace, was appointed administrator and entered bond with the State of North Carolina as such.⁴³ The final settlement of the cash in the estate was recorded on 11 June 1921.⁴⁴

About two years after her father's death, on 11 July 1917, Ollie, age 33, married Garmon Rayburn.⁴⁵ Less than a year later, on 10 May 1918, her mother Mary Jane

³⁸ Rutherford Co., N. C., Deed Book 82: 144, G. L. Lovelace and Mary Jane Lovelace to J. C. Green, 15 January 1905.

³⁹ Rutherford Co., N. C., Deed Book 82: 236, G. L. Lovelace and Mary J. Lovelace to L. A. Padgett, 15 January 1906.

⁴⁰ Rutherford Co., N. C., Deed Book 82: 265, L. A. Padgett and Mattie S. Padgett to G. L. Lovelace and Mary Lovelace, 15 January 1906.

⁴¹ 1910 U.S. census, Rutherford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Logans Store Township, Enumeration District (ED) 139, sheet 1-B, dwelling 15, family 15, George L. Lovelace; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 September 2013), citing FHL microfilm publication 1,375,145.

⁴² "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975" *Ancestry.com*, death certificate image, George Logan Lovelace, 1915, no. 428.

⁴³ Rutherford County, North Carolina, "Records of Administration, Book 2," 85-86, estate of G. L. Lovelace, 1916; Clerk of Court's Office, Rutherfordton.

⁴⁴ Rutherford County, North Carolina, "Cash Book 2, 1905-" 39, G. L. Lovelace heirs, 1917-1921; Clerk of Court's Office, Rutherfordton.

⁴⁵ Edith Inez Lovelace Jenkins, Morganton, North Carolina, to Gregory Lee Lovelace, letter, 26 May 1991, listing the marriages and children for some of the descendants of George Logan and Mary Jane Green Lovelace; Personal Correspondence; Lovelace Family, Lovelace Research Files; privately held by Lovelace, {683 Edmonds Drive,} Charleston, South Carolina.

died in Logans Store with heart and kidney ailments. She was buried beside George in Walls Church Cemetery the day after her death.⁴⁶



Shared grave marker of George Logan
and Mary Jane Green Lovelace

The descendants of George Logan and Mary Jane Lovelace have dispersed all across the country. However, many remain in Rutherford County, both in Logans Store and in Colfax as well as in other parts of Rutherford and the neighboring counties of Cleveland, Polk, McDowell, and Burke. They continue the line of the family that George and Mary Jane began near the places that they called home during their long and full lives. I am proud to be their descendant and carry the Lovelace name.

⁴⁶ "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012), death certificate image, Mary Jane Lovelace, 10 May 1918, no. 373, North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. Also Walls Baptist Church Cemetery (Rutherford County, North Carolina; 4.5 miles NNW of Ellenboro via Piney Mountain Road and Walls Church Road), George Logan and Mary Jane Lovelace marker; photographed by Greg Lovelace, July 2013.