

Sacred Retreat of Friendship & Virtue

BY WAYNE E. SIRMON, 33°
VALLEY OF MOBILE

Military Lodges during the American Civil War

... *BUT IF ALL EFFORTS FAIL, if every appeal for peace shall be thrust aside, if the sword must still be the last resort, and accepted as the final arbiter, we beseech the Brethren engaged in the awful contest to remember that a fallen foe is still a Brother, and as such is entitled to warmest sympathies and kindest attentions. If war can not be averted or turned aside, let every Brother use his utmost endeavors, and, as far as lies in his power, rob it of some of its horrors. ...*¹

WITH THESE WORDS, Tennessee Grand Master James McCallum called on the Freemasons of both the United States and the Confederacy to remember that the special bond of fraternity remained even across the terrible fields of battle. Freemasonry displayed itself in a wide range of actions during the American Civil War. There are numerous accounts of lifesaving and comfort-giving deeds done by soldiers wearing both blue and gray. In addition, the development of "military" lodges that were attached to an army unit provided a "sacred retreat of friendship and virtue"²

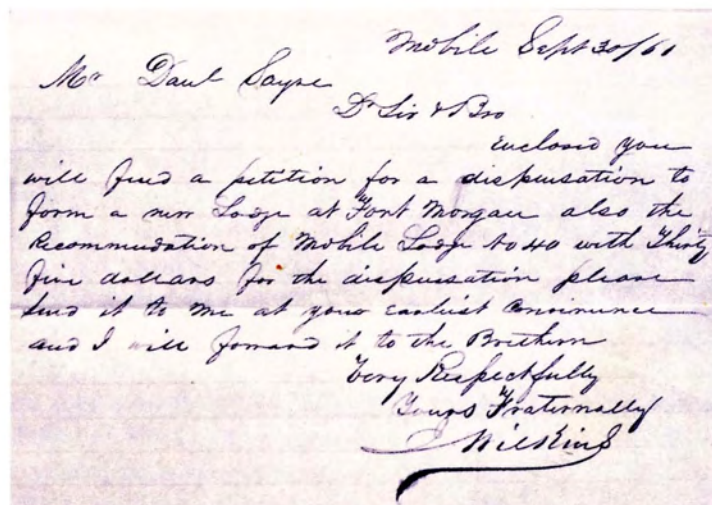
During the first few months of 1861, men across the newly formed Confederate States of America joined in echoing sentiments of defiance and defense of home and society as they volunteered for military service. While the newly-uniformed soldiers clamored to rush to the battlefields, leaders with military experience realized the need for significant training in the art of war. One such training camp was established at Fort Morgan, Alabama. Located at the entrance to Mobile Bay, Fort Morgan was constructed at the tip of a twenty-nine mile long peninsula that is only one-half mile wide at the end. It occupied the same location as Fort Bowyer, which played a minor role in the War of 1812.³

Among the units formed and trained at Fort Morgan was the Second Alabama Infantry Reg-

iment. Organized in the spring of 1861, this isolated post would be home for these men for ten of the twelve month life of the Second Alabama.⁴ They were to be separated from their family and friends. They no longer could rely on the stabilizing influences of their churches and business pursuits. But a few of these novice soldiers were able to bring a small part of

their pre-war life with them. They formed the first Alabama Masonic Lodge of the Civil War. On October 7, 1861, Grand Master S. F. Hale granted a dispensation to fifteen Masons to operate as "Confederate Lodge No. 292."⁵

Despite the extensive efforts of historians to describe, analyze and understand the American Civil War, significant gaps still remain in the historiography of this conflict. While efforts (See **MILITARY LODGES**, pg. 4)



Cover letter written in support of the formation of Confederate Lodge #292. The letter is addressed to R. W. Daniel Sayre, Grand Secretary and signed by Bro. James Wilkins, Worshipful Master of Mobile #40.

Photo: Courtesy Grand Lodge of Alabama Archives

MILITARY LODGES (Continued from pg. 1)

to investigate many of these poorly studied topics have increased in the past thirty years, the small number of studies of gender, race and other social aspects highlight the sparsity of scholarly effort given to other facets of this complex portrait of the Civil War soldier.⁶

Beginning with Bell Irvin Wiley (*The Life of Johnny Reb*, 1943 and *The Life of Billy Yank*, 1952), there has been a slow but steady development in the historiography of the "Common Soldier" of the Civil War. Prior to Wiley's efforts books concerning the conduct of the war ignored the common soldier. The vast amount of time consumed by training, movement and waiting between the battles received only minor treatment or were omitted.

The concept of Military Masonic Lodges was far from new. Freemasonry owes much of its world-wide nature to the Regimental Lodges of the British armies. Accommodations were made for the professional soldiers when Grand Lodges began issuing warrants or charters for Regiments to have Military (traveling) Lodges. Using the system of warrants, the Irish Grand Lodge established lodges in the British army and navy. The First Battalion, the Royal Scots, received its warrant in 1732. This lodge traveled with its regiment for over a century.⁷ By 1813 the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland and the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges of England had a total of 218 military lodges on their rolls.⁸

Masonic Lodges were established by members of several American Regiments in the War of Independence and there is some evidence of Lodges formed during the Mexican, Spanish-American and First World Wars. The reduction in the formation of military lodges over time, may be due to the change from the use of state volunteer regiments to units lacking a strong tie to a particular locale. Beginning with the military draft during World War One, the shift from state organized units to individual draftees continued until the end of the draft in 1973. In was not until the Persian Gulf War that Reservists and National Guardsmen again went to war as identifiable units.⁹

Following their opponent's example, the American Army hosted ten military lodges between 1775 and 1780. These were attached to the regiments of the Continental Line. Seven of these lodges held warrants from Pennsylvania. Three of these were for troops raised in that state. The others were for regiments from North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. New York furnished a warrant for one lodge and each of the two competing Grand Lodges in Massachusetts authorized one lodge.¹⁰

There are scattered references to military lodges being formed during the Mexican War. In a report to the Grand Lodge of Michigan in 1848, A. C. Smith reported that correspondence from the Grand Lodges of Virginia and Illinois indicated they had authorized military lodges for "regiments of Volunteers serving in the present war with Mexico." Although his committee recommended a similar action by Michigan, there is no record of the creation of such a lodge by that Grand Lodge.¹¹ Rufus Greene, Grand Master of Alabama in 1848, granted a Dispensation for a "traveling lodge in the Alabama Battalion bound for the late seat of War ... which Lodge commenced its labors at the City of Orizaba, Mexico, and afterwards at St. Juan, where it closed its Dispensation."¹² This was a battalion of volunteers raised in Mobile and commanded by John I. Seibels but did not reach Mexico in time to participate in combat operations. It was placed "on garrison duty in the interior, principally at Orizaba, till the peace."¹³

The American Civil War saw the creation of the greatest number of military lodges in the history of the nation. This was due to the duration of the conflict and the large number of men mobilized. The then common practice of ceasing major campaigning during the winter months provided opportunities for increased fraternal association.

There are a few scattered references to military lodges in post-Civil War conflicts. Military Lodges were authorized by the Grand Lodges of Kentucky and North Dakota during the Spanish-American War. Primarily due to the poor record keeping of ambulatory lodges, at least seventeen Grand Lodges actively resisted the creation of these lodges and the number of military lodges created during the combat and occupational phases of the First World War was relatively small.¹⁴ Thirteen military lodges were established by nine Grand Lodges. Ten operated in France or Germany.¹⁵

There do not appear to have been any military lodges created during World War Two. The increased mobility of warfare and the more national makeup of the army units of battalion and greater size worked against the state-based structure of the traditional American traveling lodge.

There have been a number of Masonic meetings reported to have taken place in Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom. While this reoccurrence of a desire for military lodges has not been adequately studied, two factors involved may be the increased deployment of National Guard units and the static nature of this form of warfare.

During the American Civil War, approximately 500,000 northern and southern men were members of the Masonic



Thomas Lanier was the Captain of the Lane Guards/Co. B, 2nd Alabama Infantry and a charter member of Confederate No. 292. He later served with the 42th AL Inf. Regt. and was promoted to colonel and served as the regimental commander.

fraternity. This represents eleven percent of the adult male population and it is probable that a similar fraction of soldiers of the Federal and Confederate armies were Freemasons.¹⁶ If we estimate that each of the 244 documented military lodges had an average membership of fifty then the total number of affiliated Masons would have been approximately 12,000. This is only a minor fraction of the total number of Masons in uniform. However, it should be noted that most of these lodges served a single regiment, giving the ratio of Masons to total unit strength to be 50:1000 or 5 percent. This suggests that almost one half of the active Masons in these regiments were affiliated with the regimental lodge.

The continuing interest of members of the Masonic fraternity in the events of the Civil War has not advanced far beyond the identification of famous participants as Freemasons and the retelling of anecdotes with only the rarest account of the activities of the military lodges.

Perhaps most poignant of the recounted stories are the many references to Masonic burials. However, the role of Freemasons in caring for the war dead has been omitted from the writing of the majority of Civil War historians. Although Freemasonry is receiving greater notice by historians including Margaret Jacobs, Steven Bullock and Jessica Harland-Jacobs, the actions of the Freemasons continue to be overlooked by most of the academic community. Professor Drew Gilpin Faust's 2008 book on death and the American Civil War completely omits any reference to such acts of Masons. *This Republic of Suffering* includes only a single mention of the Masons although the book's topic deals directly with actions of the type that are frequently mentioned in soldiers' memoirs as motivated by fraternal affection. Faust writes that, "The bereaved struggle to separate themselves from the dead through ritual and mourning."¹⁷ Yet, she fails to give notice to the ritual and mourning of Freemasons who provided these elements of humanity to their dearest mess mate and the unknown enemy who was nonetheless linked by Freemasonry's "mystic tie." The fraternal compassion displayed in these accounts suggests that Freemasonry was actively engaged in assisting in what Professor Faust described as the "Good Death."

MILITARY LODGES IN THE CIVIL WAR

In addition to games, such as baseball, drinking, smoking and playing cards, other distractions to the dull routine of camp life were religious revivals, YMCA activities and Masonic Lodge meetings. *The House Undivided* states that in an effort to meet the social and fraternal needs of the soldiers of the North and South there were not less than 244 "Traveling Military Lodges" operating during the War Between the States. Ninety-four were Union Lodges and 150 were Confederate. Among the more active Grand Lodges were: Texas (50), Indiana (37) and Virginia (28).¹⁸ These three states accounted for almost half (47%) of the military lodges. Alabama granted dispensations to 19 lodges.¹⁹

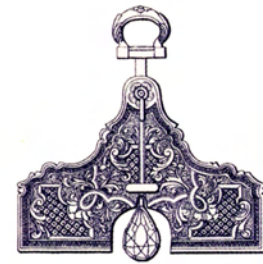
(The conclusion of this analysis will appear in the Summer 2011 issue of *The Plumbl ine*.)

ENDNOTES

1. Charles A. Snodgrass and Bobby J. Demott, *The History of Freemasonry in Tennessee*, (Knoxville, TN: Tennessee Valley Publishing, 1994), 95-97. This is a portion of the Memorial sent on May 1, 1861, from the Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee to the "Grand Lodge of New York and the Craft in general."
2. George A. Beauchamp and Dan A. Greene, eds., *Masonic Manual: Grand Lodge of Alabama*, 4th ed. (Birmingham, Dispatch Printing Company, 1911) 32. This phrase is taken from the closing charge which is a final set of instructions given by the Master of a lodge just before the meeting ends.
3. Earl Warren Stapleton, "A History of Fort Morgan, Alabama, from 1813 to 1864" (master's thesis, University of Alabama, 1950). 4-25.
4. Joseph Wheeler, *Confederate Military History of Alabama*, (Gulf Breeze, FL: Moseley Hall Publishing, 2003), 32.
5. An earlier military lodge was organized by the Grand Lodge of Alabama during the Mexican War. It operated from December 23, 1847, to August 7, 1847, and was located with the 1st Battalion of Alabama Volunteers.
6. James M. McPherson, and William J. Cooper, Jr., *Writing the Civil War: The Quest to Understand*, (Columbia SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1998), 4.
7. Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs, *Builders of Empire: Freemasons and British Imperialism, 1717-1927*, (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), 32-33.
8. Allen E. Roberts, ed., *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, Revised Ed.*, (Richmond, VA: Macoy Publishing, 1996) 421-3.
9. Jerry Cooper, "Army Reserves and National Guard" in *The Oxford Companion to American Military History*, (ed. John Whiteclay Chambers II (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999) 60-61.
10. Steven C. Bullock, *Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840*, (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 128.
11. Jefferson S. Conover, *Freemasonry in Michigan: A Comprehensive History of Michigan Masonry from its earliest introduction in 1764, Volume 1*, (Coldwater, MI: Conover Engraving and Printing Company, 1897), 306.
12. Grand Lodge of Alabama, *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama Convened in the City of Montgomery December 4, 1848*, (Montgomery AL: McCormick and Brittan Printers, 1849) 13.
13. W. Brewer, *Alabama: Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men from 1540 to 1872*, (Montgomery: Barrett and Brown, 1872), 588-9.
14. John B. Vrooman and Allen E. Roberts, *Sword and Trowel: The Story of Traveling and Military Lodges*, (Fulton, MO: Ovid Bell Press, 1964), 116-117.
15. Allen E. Roberts, ed., *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, Revised Ed.*, (Richmond, VA: Macoy Publishing, 1996). 421-423.
16. Sheldon A. Munn, *Freemasons at Gettysburg*, (Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1993), 20.
17. Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, (New York, NY: Alfred A Knopf, 2008), xiv.
18. Allen E. Roberts, *House Undivided: The Story of Freemasonry and the Civil War* (Richmond, VA: Macoy Publishing, 1961), 106.
19. The Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865 is a regularly chartered lodge under the Grand Lodge of Virginia. It was chartered in 1995 with Allen Roberts serving as its first Worshipful Master. This lodge conducted the first known Masonic meeting on Dauphin Island, AL when it held its April 8, 2006 communication inside Fort Gaines.



Sacred Retreat of Friendship & Virtue



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PART II

BY WAYNE E. SIRMON, 33°, VALLEY OF MOBILE

This article is the second of a two-part series premiering in the spring, 2011 issue.

WHILE SOME GRAND LODGES did not issue any Letters of Dispensation to military units from their states during the American Civil War, others were quite ready to provide an opportunity for soldiers to benefit from Masonic associations while serving in the military. During the Grand Lodge annual meetings in 1861, the subject of chartering military lodges was discussed in several states. In December 1861, the Grand Master pro tem of North Carolina was James E. Allen. In his remarks, he outlined the arguments against traveling lodges. His opening statement set the tone of his argument when he stated, "Having been in camp the greater part of the present year from my observations there, I

feel assured that to our Order no benefit could be derived from traveling or camp lodges; and the fate of many of our brethren of the East who desired the lodge confirms me more fully in the opinion." His chief concern was that when soldiers' membership petitions were rejected, the harmony of the military company would be destroyed. However, a select committee reported adversely on his opinion and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina approved the granting of dispensations for regiments.²⁰

The Grand Lodge of Florida addressed this issue in January 1862. Grand Master D. C. Dawkins supported the use of military lodges and the Florida select committee agreed. The Grand Lodges of Arkansas and Louisiana also favored their use. The Louisiana Proceedings addressed the value of Masonic activities in military camps,

Camp life, we know, is regarded as an immoral one; as a place in which profanity, ribaldry, and vulgarity and many other vices

are to be found. If such was necessarily the atmosphere of the camp, it might indeed be a grave question whether Masonic virtues would flourish there. ... soldiers in the camp are, to a certain extent, free from the restraining influences thrown around them in private life. They miss the church, the lodge, female society and the presence of their beloved ones... [lodges] would check the tendency to demoralization there.²¹

In the only book length history of Freemasonry in Alabama, Joseph A. Jackson devoted 16 pages to the war years. However Jackson only rehash-

(See [MILITARY LODGES](#), pg. 4)



Constructed in 1857, this building housed the city hall, market, fire station, and had meeting space for militia companies and other organizations, including the local masonic lodges. It was in this building that LT George E. Dixon, commander of the confederate submarine *Hunley* received his Masonic degrees.

MILITARY LODGES (Continued from pg. 1)

es Oliver Day Street's 1936 comments about the unsuccessful request to form a Lodge attached to the 53rd Regiment during 1864 and Jackson never mentions any of the army Lodges that were organized by Alabama soldiers during the Civil War.²²

Vrooman and Roberts reported that, "The Grand Lodge of Alabama has no record of returns, or any information concerning the 19 Military Lodges issued dispensations during the Civil War."²³ They then list the basic information that is contained in the annual *Proceedings* list of Defunct Lodges, perpetuating the typographical errors contained in this list since its first inclusion in the *Proceedings* of 1914.²⁴

In March 2006, Frank Little, Grand Master of Masons in Alabama, granted rare access to the Grand Lodge Archives. Several of the reports were found to have been misfiled and it is doubtful that anyone has studied these documents in the past one hundred years. In direct contradiction to the information provided Vrooman and Roberts, the archives include four letters of dispensation, fifteen petitions for dispensation and two annual reports, along with scattered other correspondence.

Two military lodges were granted dispensation to work in 1861. Two more Lodges were formed in 1862; eight in 1863; and seven in 1864.²⁵ Information about requests that were refused has not been maintained in a reliable manner. From a number of sources we have knowledge of several unsuccessful efforts.

In the papers of H. S. Shelton Lodge No. 295 was a letter, dated November 7, 1863, recommending the petition to form a lodge to be named HELM. This seems to be a request from Kentucky Masons who were part of the "Orphan Brigade."

Benjamin Hardin Helm was graduated from West Point in the class of 1851 and became a member of Morrison Lodge No. 76 in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.²⁶ His name first appears on the Lodge roster in 1853 at which time he would have been 22 years old and a recent graduate of the School of Law at the University of Louisville. In 1856 he married Emily Todd, the sister-in-law of Abraham Lincoln. Brigadier General Helm died while commanding a division of the Army of the Tennessee at the battle of Chickamauga, less than two months prior to this unsuccessful attempt to form a military lodge.²⁷

The petition to establish a traveling lodge in the camp of Cantey's Brigade was disapproved in 1864. The brigade was formed in Mobile in early 1863 and was transferred to north Georgia in April 1864. The Grand Lodge *Proceedings* of that year did not give any details other than the petition was submitted by Bros. J. J. Grace, J. H. Carmichael and J. B. Allen.

As with the case of Cantey's Brigade, no reason was given for the refusal of a dispensation of Hannon's 53rd Alabama Regiment. Organized in Montgomery in November 1862 by Moses W. Hannon, the 53rd Alabama Cavalry Regiment, Partisan Rangers, it saw action in the Tennessee valley and in April 1864 was assigned as part of General Moses W. Hannon's Brigade near Dalton, Georgia.

CONFEDERATE LODGE NO. 292 – FORT MORGAN, ALABAMA

Confederate Lodge No. 292 existed only during the earliest stages of the Civil War. During its existence, Fort Morgan was

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF LODGE MEMBERSHIP BY COMPANY (2ND AL INF.)

Unit	County	Rank			Method of Joining			Total
		Officer	NCO	Private	Charter	Affiliate	Degree	
A - Calhoun Guards	Calhoun	3	1	7	3	4	4	11
B - Lane Guards	Pickens	5	2	8	5	5	5	15
C - Clairborne Guards	Monroe		1	3	1	3	–	4
D - Suggsville Greys	Clarke	1	2	4	1	2	4	7
E - Franklin Blues	Lauderdale		1	4	–	2	3	5
F - Southern AL Rifles	Mobile			1	–	–	1	1
G - Jackson Avengers	Mobile				–	–	–	–
H - Pope Walker Rifles	Mobile				–	–	–	–
I - Scotch Guards	Mobile			2	1	–	1	2
K - Jackson Rifles	Jackson		1		–	1	–	1
Field and Staff		2			–	1	1	2
Unknown Unit				1		1	3	4
TOTAL		11	8	30	11	19	22	52

Note: 3 members are of unknown rank and unit.

used as an assembly and training site for the Alabama Militia. One unusual feature of this Lodge was that it was not attached to a particular military organization. Not only was this unique among the military lodges of Alabama, but it was a very uncommon arrangement throughout the war. Of the 250 lodges listed by Vrooman and Roberts, only three appear to have been located at a fixed place. Fourteen others do not have sufficient information to be certain that they were attached to a military unit and therefore traveled as the soldiers conducted their various military campaigns. In addition the Confederate Lodge of Alabama, the Grand Lodge of Maryland warranted Monitor Lodge No. 113 at Ft. Monroe, Virginia in 1863. The Grand Lodge of New York established a lodge at Port Royal.²⁸ This also was a deviation from the practice used by the military lodges of the British army. Indeed, the common use of the phrase "Traveling Lodge" reflected the mobile nature of this particular type of Masonic Lodge.

Perhaps the assignment of Confederate Lodge No. 292 to Fort Morgan, rather than to the Second Alabama Infantry Regiment reflected the opinion that the regiment would remain as a permanent garrison. The 1st Alabama Artillery Battalion was posted at Fort Morgan for the entire period that it was under Confederate control. At least one member of Confederate Lodge did remain stationed at Fort Morgan. Frederick S. Ferguson received his Masonic degrees in the lodge and at the time of the surrender of the fort was a Captain in command of Battery B. Another possibility is that the charter members were not well aware of the concept of traveling lodges and were only familiar with the long established practice of Alabama lodges being fixed to a particular location. Edict 80 of the *Masonic Code of Alabama* required that a Lodge cannot change its meeting place "except by the consent of the majority of all its members, expressed at a regular communication, and by the consent of the Grand Lodge..."²⁹ This is a virtually identical to Article IV, Section 20 of the Constitution adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama in 1836.

The records of this Lodge provide a detailed list of the charter members who were Freemasons prior to their arrival at Fort Morgan as well as a list of new members. The surviving records of most of the other Military Lodges are fragmentary and generally provide the researcher only with the names of some of the charter members. From the reports of Confederate Lodge No. 292 and the musters of the army forces sta-

TABLE 2. OFFICERS OF CONFEDERATE LODGE NO. 292

Lodge Office	Name	Company	Rank
Worshipful Master	Wm. M. Hames	A – Calhoun Guards	1LT
Senior Warden	Isaac W. Anderson	B – Lane Guards	2LT
Junior Warden	August R. Lankford	D – Suggsville Greys	CPT
Treasurer	John Ryan	Regt. Staff	CPT
Secretary	George H. Forney	A – Calhoun Guards	PVT (later CPT)
Senior Deacon	Joseph King	B – Lane Guards	PVT
Junior Deacon	Jesse Mohon	A – Calhoun Guards	2LT
Steward	George H. Gray	I – Scotch Guards	PVT
Steward	T. C. Mitchell	B – Lane Guards	3LT
Chaplain	Rev. W. Spellman	B – Lane Guards	PVT
Tyler	Daniel Brenan	Unknown	Unknown

tioned at Fort Morgan, it can be determined that the great majority of the members of Confederate Lodge served with the Second Alabama Infantry Regiment. This unit was organized in April 1861, and was stationed at Fort Morgan until March 1862. It was disbanded after its single year of service was completed. (See Table 1.)

By comparing the manuscript records of Confederate Lodge No. 292 contained in the Alabama Grand Lodge archives and on-line information available through the Alabama Archives and the National Parks Service it is possible to identify the

While some Grand Lodges did not issue any Letters of Dispensation to military units from their states during the American Civil War, others were quite ready to provide an opportunity for soldiers to benefit from Masonic associations while serving in the military.

military affiliation of forty-nine of the fifty-two members of the lodge. The initial assignment and military rank, as well as their method of joining the lodge are detailed in Table 1. The lodge officers as listed in the annual report to the Grand Lodge are shown in Table 2. It is of interest that two companies appear to have provided the driving force behind the creation of the lodge. The Mobile units represent forty percent of the strength of the regiment yet they account for only one charter member, and three new members.

Lane Guards (Company B) and the Calhoun Guards (Company A) members were the driving force behind the creation of Confederate Lodge. While the Lane Guards supplied the largest number of all three classes of membership, the Calhoun Guards provided the initial lodge leadership. Both of the two critical officers, the Master and Secretary were from the Calhoun Guards. Senior Warden Anderson is mentioned as serving on a Grand Lodge committee and was registered as

the Senior Warden of Bridgeville No. 100 at the December 3, 1860 annual communication of the Grand Lodge. Senior Deacon King was listed among "Deaths in 1861" in the *Proceedings* for that year. (See Table 2.)

Given the relatively complete records of the members of Confederate Lodge, it is possible to ask if there is a correlation between Masonic membership and certain aspects of military participation. Using the data collected from the archives of the Grand Lodge of Alabama and military records available through the Alabama Archives and the National Parks Service, the members of Confederate Lodge and a match sample drawn from the Second Alabama Infantry Regiment were compared for continued military service after the disbanding of the Second Alabama.

Because of the influences of military rank and the high proportion of commissioned officers in the lodge a stratified sample of equal numbers of commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates was used as the comparison group. Discounting the three lodge members of unknown military assignment, each group contains forty-nine soldiers.

A compiled roster of the membership of the Second Alabama Infantry was obtained from Kenneth W. Jones.³⁰ This computer file contains 1,441 names along with their company assignments and rank, if higher than private.

This list was used to identify the matched sample. To be considered for inclusion, the soldier's record in the Alabama Archives database had to indicate that the soldier was at least twenty years of age. This selection criterion was based on the requirement that a man must have been at least twenty-one years old before he could join a Masonic lodge. Since the soldier's age was most commonly found on his enlistment records which predated the formation of Confederate Lodge by six to nine months, the minimum age was chosen as twenty rather than twenty-one. Each member's wartime activities were also checked using the National Parks Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database.³¹

The first comparisons concern the rates of reenlistment of the lodge members vs. non-lodge members. The difference is obvious. Forty-one (84%) of the lodge members continued serving in the Confederate military compared to only seventeen (35%) of the non-lodge sample. This large difference in the behavior of the two groups suggests that there is a fundamental difference. (Table 3.)

Even without the statistical analysis shown in Table 3, the wide discrepancy between these Masons and their fellow members of the regiment cannot be supposed to be the result of sampling error.

CONCLUSION

The combination of the principles of Freemasonry and the profession of arms has a long history that displayed a real force during the American Civil War. The members of Confederate Lodge continued to fight for the Confederacy in a

TABLE 3. REENLISTMENT AFTER 2ND AL DISBANDS

	Leave Army	Reenlist	Totals
Lodge Members	8	41	49
Non-lodge	32	17	49
Total	40	58	98
Chi-Square = 24.33		$p = .000000081$	

much larger proportion than did the regiment in general. To demonstrate a correlation is a straightforward matter. To describe a reasonable explanation for the existence of this relationship is a difficult task.

Men of high status were frequently involved in the private volunteer companies that were popular in the 1850s. These community leaders were the first to volunteer for service and frequently saw rapid advancement within the army command structure.

The Lane Guards was the first volunteer company from Pickens County to see active service and the Calhoun Guards appear to have been the first detachment mobilized from that county.

This suggests that there is a set of underlying values which drove these men to join the fraternity of Freemasons and make a strong commitment to the political causes of Alabama. Perhaps it was not their Masonic vows and its concept of fraternity that led these men to leave their homes and livelihoods to fight in the Confederate army. Perhaps such men are drawn to Masonic activities for the same reason that they fought. Both the military and the fraternity place an almost esoteric meaning to Shakespeare's, "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."

The Second Alabama Infantry was deployed to Fort Pillow, Tennessee in March, 1862, bringing to an end Confederate Lodge. As the regiment was about to leave Fort Morgan, Bro. Peleb Brown, the Secretary of Howard Lodge in Mobile responded to a gift he received from the Brothers of Confederate Lodge. Assuming that the regiment and his Masonic Brothers were soon to be engaged in deadly combat, he wrote,

In accepting this unexpected and beautiful token, I beg leave to tender to you my most sincere and heartfelt thanks, and will receive it as an earnest pledge of your Brotherly Love and esteem, and with the promise that while life lasts I will retain it in remembrance of you and the few happy hours I have been permitted to spend with you in your sacred retreat within the walls of Fort Morgan.

I sincerely regret that circumstances are about to intervene to separate you and close your labors of love. But I hope and trust that wherever your lots may be cast, you may carry with you the pleasing consolation that the seeds you have here sown, will put forth and bear fruit abundantly, in honor of our ancient and time honored institution.

May you part upon the square, for your country must have its due
To mingle with the multitude, a cold unfriendly crew

May the influence of your gatherings in memory be green
And you long upon the level to renew this happy scene
There's a world where all are equal, we are hurry towards it fast
We shall meet upon the level there when the gates of death are past.
We shall stand before the Orient our Master will be there
To try the block we offer by His own unerring Square

We shall meet upon the Level there but never there depart
There's a Mansion, tis all ready for each trusting faithful heart
There's a Mansion and a welcome and a multitude will be there
Who have met upon the Level and tried upon the Square.

ENDNOTES

20. Grand Lodge of Alabama. "Report on Foreign Correspondence," *Proceedings of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, 1862*, (Montgomery, AL: Barrett, Wimbish and Co., 1863), vii.
21. ———, xi-xii.
22. Joseph Abram Jackson, *Masonry in Alabama: A Sesquicentennial History 1821-1971* (Montgomery, AL: Brown Printing, 1970) 65-81.
23. John B. Vrooman and Allen E. Roberts, *Sword and Trowel: The Story of Traveling and Military Lodges*, (Fulton, MO: Ovid Bell Press, 1964), 44.
24. Grand Lodge of Alabama, *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Alabama at the Ninety-Fourth Annual Communication*, (Montgomery, AL: Brown Printing, 1914), 247. These errors include listing "J.

W. Garrett Lodge No. 294" which was named for Isham W. Garrett who commanded the 20th Alabama Infantry.

25. Grand Lodge of Alabama, *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Alabama at the Annual Communication November 22-23, 2005* (Montgomery, AL, 2005), 166.

26. Grand Lodge of Kentucky, *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky at a Grand Annual Communication in the City of Lexington held on the twenty-ninth day of August, 1853*, (Frankfort, KY: A. G. Hodges & Co., 1853), 74. This document was retrieved by the author using the on-line collection of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Digital Archives.

27. R. Gerald McMurtry, "Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm: Kentucky Brother-In-Law of Abraham Lincoln" in *Historical Bulletin No. 17, Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin*, (Madison, WI., 1959), 5.

28. John B. Vrooman and Allen E. Roberts, *Sword and Trowel: The Story of Traveling and Military Lodges*, (Fulton, MO: Ovid Bell Press, 1964), 74, 98. At the conclusion of the war, the members of Monitor Lodge of Maryland applied for a new charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia. This lodge continues to serve the purposes of Freemasonry as Monitor Lodge No. 197.

29. George A. Beauchamp and Dan A. Greene, eds. *Masonic Manual: Grand Lodge of Alabama, 4th ed.* (Birmingham, AL: Dispatch Printing, 1911), 256.

30. Kenneth W. Jones, comp. *Second Alabama Infantry Muster Roll, Alphabetical*, (Stephenson, TX, 2006).

31. <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.cfm> and <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/civilwar/search.cfm>

LA ADELPHIA (Continued from pg. 3)

ly brought negative consequences to *La Adelpia*, as we will later see.

As elevated as Gautier's intentions may have been, he could not publish his journal without the capital to cover costs. On numerous occasions, the journal published information about cost and subscription conditions, as well as advertising services' offers.

The subscription cost was 1.50 pesos quarterly, payment required in advance. Distribution was through agents or by mail. This latter service entailed an additional five cents fee to cover postage.¹⁰ Periodically, lists including the names of the agents were published. It seems that the amount obtained through subscriptions was not enough to cover production expenses. Possibly, this moved the administrator to offer this service to his readers:

Anyone wishing to publish advertisements in *La Adelpia* can contact its Administration. We are planning to sell the right to insert advertisement sheets within the text of the newspaper, and those will be published in color sheets. The price will be conventional and we will not be sinning as immoderate by saying

that our newspaper is one of those with the most circulation in the Island.¹¹

What appears to be one of those "color sheets" features attached to Number 20. But, far from including any message from a commercial enterprise, it included a petition to subscribers, asking them to pay in advance the quarterly fees.

Earnings from advertising couldn't be many, since, there are only three advertisements in the 22 analyzed issues. And from that trio, one was a greeting from the journal's administration to subscribers and agents, celebrating New Year, 1884.

But *La Adelpia* confronted not only economic problems. In Number 14, excuses were presented for the delay of that issue (corresponding to January 16, 1884), due to the illness "...of the operator who manages the mechanic press of the printing shop in which this journal is produced...."¹²

But the problem persisted, based on the fact that the February 1, 1884, issue didn't circulate, having then to publish a 24-page edition on February 16. Once more, the enterprise presented excuses, and committed to normalize the situa-

tion for the March 1 issue, which effectively occurred.¹³

Even with its problems, *La Adelpia*'s distribution network continued to expand. Number 17 included a list of distribution agents throughout the Island larger than the one mentioned before. In that same issue, the way the agents were compensated was described:

Agents will receive 10 per 100 for collection expenses and a free issue (of the journal)-those who reach 50 subscribers will receive 15 per 100, and those who raise the number of those (subscribers) to over 100, will get a 25 per 100 commission.¹⁴

Imprenta de Martín Fernández printed the biweekly editions. Numbers 1 to 19 were produced in that printing shop. Notwithstanding, Fernández leased his business to a new operator between April and May, 1884. This represented a new hurdle for the editors of *La Adelpia*, since they weren't able to reach a satisfactory agreement with the new printer. Thus, they had to reduce the number of pages in two editions.¹⁵ These last three issues were printed at