

# ***The Life & Times of George Edward Cargile, CSA Co. H Alabama Regiment of Volunteers***

*By John W. Cargile*

George Edward Cargile was my great-great grandfather. My interest in him goes back to the late 1960's when I first began researching my family ancestry. It has been a long, long search, and I have loved every minute of it.

This story will be more focused on the times of George Edward Cargile than the man himself. For the most part everything is based on fact and a ton of research and trying to tie loose ends together so it makes a little bit of horse sense.

I must acknowledge a few people who have guided me on the way to my research, not only concerning George E. Cargile, but our entire clan of Cargile's that reach back into the history of Scotland and Ireland. I often recall my grandmother, Minnie Parsons Cargile, say that we were Scots-Irish, but I did not know what she meant until I began my research. It was my grandmother who gave me my first glimpse at George Cargile. She remembered talk of him after she married into the family, and she told me before she died that George Cargile "wasn't scared of nothing." I didn't know what she meant until I found him surviving three years in the Confederacy in Co. H, 28th Alabama Regiment of Volunteers. To have survived the War for Southern Independence against the Northern aggressors led by President Abraham Lincoln is a feat unto itself. But there was much more about him that meets the eye, and that is what I will be telling about in this ! account.

My mother, now Joyce Jones, is the most important person behind my research. If it were not for her, I might be like just any other person in the family who doesn't really care about their heritage. Believe me, most families don't care or want to know about their families' past. Most of the time, however, there is at least one brave soul who becomes the unselected one that keeps up with family heritage, and I guess I appointed myself to that overseeing.

There are numerous others who helped me along the way. Mrs. Patty Bartell Myers, who compiled a book, "Cargill/Cargile/Cargal of the South and Southwest," influenced a lot of my research, and I thank her for allowing me to contribute to the book that was published in September 1997. To my long distant cousin, Marcus (Jim) Wallace of Texas, who shares both paternal and maternal lines on the Cargile/Parsons side; to James Walker, author of "Roupes Valley," and "Gallant Men of the 28th," to E.D. Wilson of Houston, Texas, who has a website about the 28th Alabama Infantry, and many, many more people.

The one thing, however, that has kept me digging into our ancestral past is that we can all know who we are and what we were born to be, where we came from and where we are going. I think that is the gift God gave me is to know, understand, and be guided by Wisdom and Truth when it can be gleaned from any source on the face of this earth. Thank God for giving me the talent to write. I think it was inherited from the ancestors of my past.

John W. Cargile, Msc.D

George Edward Cargile was born in 1822 in Laurens County, South Carolina to Lewis and Rachel (Robinson) Cargile. He was the sixth son out of 10 children, seven boys and three girls.

Growing up in a farming family, you can guess that George's five older brothers might have made him meaner than most young boys. Toliver, his oldest brother was 13 years older; James was 11 years older; John R. was seven years older; Alfred was five years older; and Reuben was two years older when he was born. After George was born in 1822, Lewis and Rachel had Mary, Elizabeth, Barnett and Emilia. All of the children were born in Laurens County, South Carolina.

Let it be said that this southern family, for the most part, did not own slaves. However, Lewis Cargile was willed a Negro slave from his father, James, who had several slaves in Overton County, Tennessee. Lewis was willed a Negro woman by the name of Charlott. Another slave was willed to Lewis' brother, James. Her name was Huldah. From all indications, James Cargile of Overton County, Tennessee was probably the wealthiest of the Cargile's who originated in America as early as the 1705 in Virginia. This same line of Cargile's fought in the Revolutionary War, and this line of Cargile's steadily moved south from Wilkes County, North Carolina to Haywood County, North Carolina, to Laurens County, South Carolina, to Overton County, Tennessee and eventually to Jefferson County, Alabama.

One can go back to Cargill, Scotland, however, to see how this surname evolved. The name Cargill, according to Black's History of Scottish Surnames, is one of the oldest surnames recorded in Scotland. You can view more about the Cargill/Cargile clan at my website:  
[www.angelfire.com/al/metaphysicsgalore/Cargile.html](http://www.angelfire.com/al/metaphysicsgalore/Cargile.html)

George's father, Lewis, brought most of the family to Jefferson County, Alabama before 1850. Apparently his wife, Rachel, died before the family moved to the Mud Creek Precinct in Jefferson County. In the 1850 census, Lewis was one of 827 individuals living at Mud Creek. He was 70-years-old and living with his daughter and son, Elizabeth and Barnet. Elizabeth was 21 and Barnet 20.

Tolliver, the oldest of the sons, married Sarah Ann Laird in 1841, and George married Martha Ann Laird in 1848. Ashley Hewitt Laird, a brother of Sarah and Martha, married Mary Cargile, who was Tolliver and George's baby sister. So, the Laird family plays a huge part in family history as do the Parsons' families. The Parsons' were numerous residents at Mud Creek.

Before we get too much farther in this account, it should be mentioned that the Burchfield family was an important part of the Cargile lot. Much more about that later at the end when it comes down to George Cargile's death in a wheat field, and not because of a mortal wound from the Civil War.

What brought all the residents together in the Mud Creek Precinct was the little Church that still stands today-- Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church. This must have been the central location for most families to get together and trade stories with one another, eat together on the grounds after Sunday preaching. It might also have been the meeting place for George and Martha Laird, Tolliver and Sarah Laird.

A.J. Waldrop, a justice of the peace, married George and Martha January 31, 1848. Martha was born in Georgia about 1830. George would have been eight years older than his new bride in 1848. George was baptized at Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church in September of 1852. At that time George and Martha had given birth to their first daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, probably named after Martha's sister and George's sister. She was born in 1849.

Mud Creek Baptist Church is located in Southwestern Jefferson County on Adger Route 2. It is an impressive building and has gone through several renovations. But, when George and Martha and daughter Sarah went to the church it was hewn of notched logs. The first church was built in 1837. Lighting was at first by kerosene lamps and reflectors on the walls.

The church sits on a ridge in small valley overlooking Mud Creek, the winding stream that gives it its name. Mud Creek meanders to the northeast to run into Valley Creek not far from the Warrior River. On each side of the church, east and west, are two deep hollows down which trickles the runoff from two springs that figure into the history of the church.

In the early 1800's, restless white settlers found this pleasant valley and built homes in and around it. They were part of a wave of settlers that moved into the newly formed Alabama Territory. These early settlers brought with them their religious freedom. Among these settlers was a man name William Wood and Curtis Howton who brought slaves with them into the settlement. It is interesting to note that three women "of color" were received into the Church, two by experience and one by letter. The blacks were baptized and attended Church services. The slaves sat in the back of the Church. This was not an unusual custom.

A white and black cemetery surrounds the Church. It is in the old white cemetery that George and Martha Cargile were laid to rest. The simple gravesites have small cemented headstone listing their names. I ordered a headstone from the Office of Veterans Affairs for George's Civil War service. It weighs 170 pounds, and it will be placed at his gravesite.

Like most people in the Mud Creek Precinct, farming was a way of life. George's wealth was valued

at \$570 personal property and \$500 in real property. The farming was more for self-sustenance than for commercial use.

By 1860, two years before the Civil War, George moved his family into what was called the Freelands Precinct. By that time, George and Martha had given birth to James Charlie Cargile (my great-grandfather), and David R. (Dick) Cargile. James Charlie was born on Christmas Day, 1852. George's brother Reuben moved into this precinct also. Reuben married Nancy Ann Johnson on November 10, 1853. They had four sons: James B., John L., Tolliver R. Cargile. It is interesting to note that Lewis Cargile lived with his son Reuben in 1860. He was 80 years old.

Living with George and Martha in 1860 were Sarah, 10, James Charlie, 7, David, 3, and Rebecca 8 1/2 months old. George was listed as a farmer still. The couple would have one more child, George Monroe, who was born October 22, 1865. This would have been about the time that George Cargile came home from the Civil War as a 3rd Lieutenant.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States, and with his election brought discomfort for people living in the southern states. After all, he was a Republican, and southerners, for the most part, were Jeffersonian Democrats. Lincoln was perceived as an opponent of slavery, and wanted to enforce his will against all southerners who owned slaves. The War Between the States, however, was not based on slavery, but state's rights.

In January of 1861, George and his family heard reports of the secession of South Carolina. South Carolina announced its secession and it was quickly followed by the secession of Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina joined in to make 11 states voting to secede from what was called Lincoln's Union.

On January 11, 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union, and George, along with his family perceived Lincoln as a threat to their way of life, although they did not own slaves. Most poor families in the South did not own slaves, only those with wealth and plantations.

In February 1861, six of the 11 states held a convention in Montgomery, Alabama, known as the Cradle of the Confederacy. At the convention a Confederate Constitution was drawn up. It was similar to the United States Constitution, but with greater stress on the autonomy of each state. Jefferson Davis was named provisional presidency of the Confederacy until elections could be held.

In Alabama, news of secession came quickly by word of mouth and through the few newspapers that existed during that time. Following is a speech that E.S. Dargan gave at the Secession Convention of Alabama January 11, 1861.

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"I wish, Mr. President, to express the feelings with which I vote for the secession of Alabama from the Government of the United States; and to state, in a few words, the reasons that impel me to this act.

I feel impelled, Mr. President, to vote for this Ordinance by an overruling necessity. Years ago I was convinced that the Southern States would be compelled either to separate from the North, by dissolving the Federal Government, or they would be compelled to abolish the institution of African Slavery. This, in my judgment, was the only alternative; and I foresaw that the South would be compelled, at some day, to make her selection. The day is now come, and Alabama must make her selection, either to secede from the Union, and assume the position of a sovereign, independent State, or she must submit to a system of policy on the part of the Federal Government that, in a short time, will compel her to abolish African Slavery.

Mr. President, if pecuniary loss alone were involved in the abolition of slavery, I should hesitate long before I would give the vote I now intend to give. If the destruction of slavery entailed on us poverty alone, I could bear it, for I have seen poverty and felt its sting. But poverty, Mr. President, would be one of the least of the evils that would befall us from the abolition of African slavery. There are now in the slaveholding States over four millions of slaves; dissolve the relation of master and slave, and what, I ask, would become of that race? To remove them from amongst us is impossible. History gives us no account of the exodus of such a number of persons. We

neither have a place to which to remove them, nor the means of such removal. They therefore must remain with us; and if the relation of master and slave be dissolved, and our slaves turned loose amongst us without restraint, they would either be destroyed by our own hands-- the hands to which they look, and look with confidence, for protection-- or we ourselves would become demoralized and degraded. The former result would take place, and we ourselves would become the executioners of our own slaves. To this extent would the policy of our Northern enemies drive us; and thus would we not only be reduced to poverty, but what is still worse, we should be driven to crime, to the commission of sin; and we must, therefore, this day elect between the Government formed by our fathers (the whole spirit of which has been perverted), and POVERTY AND CRIME! This being the alternative, I cannot hesitate for a moment what my duty is. I must separate from the Government of my fathers, the one under which I have lived, and under which I wished to die. But I must do my duty to my country and my fellow beings; and humanity, in my judgment, demands that Alabama should separate herself from the Government of the United States.

If I am wrong in this responsible act, I hope my God may forgive me; for I am not actuated, as I think, from any motive save that of justice and philanthropy!"

While tending to his farm, George would wait until the day he would be impelled to protect his right as an individual, and a citizen of the State of Alabama to fight for this freedom. Among all the Cargile's in Jefferson County, only George and his nephew William, 18, would enlist in Company H, 28th Alabama Regiment of Volunteers on March 1, 1862 at Jonesboro. Lieutenant John C. Reid recruited and signed them both to the Regiment. William Cargile was the son of George's older brother Tolliver and sister-in-law Sarah Laird Cargile.

After all, George was probably the meanest of the Cargile clan. If he wasn't "scared of anything," then he was probably the most capable of the clan to go to war. He was 42-years-old when he enlisted. George was described as 5'10", blue eyes, dark hair, and fair complexion. He and William enlisted as privates.

The companies which made up the 28th Alabama Regiment were formed during the first three months of 1862. They were organized at Shelby Springs, Alabama on March 29th. Its ranks initially numbered approximately 1,100 members and first served under the command of Col. John Wesley Frazer. The terms under which these men enlisted were "three years or the duration of the war", most believing the war would be over in a matter of months.

Training and instruction was given at Shelby Springs until mid April, receiving orders to report to Corinth, Mississippi they left Shelby Springs by railroad on the 14th. They had reached Selma on the 15th and moved on to Mobile and stayed until the 19th, then departed by the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and arrived at Corinth on April 21st.

They were first assigned to Jackson's Brigade, but a few days later the regiment was made part of the newly formed Trapier's Brigade, Wither' Division. The new Brigade was made up of the 28th Alabama, 44th Mississippi (Blythe's Regiment), 10th and 19th South Carolina and Water's Alabama Battery. Later the 44th Mississippi would be replaced by the 34th Alabama Regiment and the 24th Alabama would join the brigade at Tullahoma, Tennessee during November 1862. First Commanding the Brigade was James H. Trapier, but soon he was replaced by the former Commander of the 10th South Carolina Regiment, Arthur Middleton Manigault (pronounced Man-i-go) and the brigade would from then after be known as "Manigault's Brigade".

The 28th. Alabama regiment had arrived at Corinth shortly after the Battle of Shilo, where the Army of Mississippi, led by General P.G.T. Beauregard, had failed to regain western Tennessee.

Now encamped at Corinth, the duties of the 28th Alabama consisted of fortifying, flooring tents and building breastworks. Picket duty was performed about every two or three days. Unaccustomed to the unsanitary conditions of camp life, the regiment dwindled in number due to sickness, the most common illness being chronic diarrhea and dysentery. Those who were not found fit for duty were sent to hospitals to recover. During late May accounts were given that over 17,000 sick Confederates from the Army of Mississippi were sent from Corinth to the rear.

The 28th Alabama first came under fire while on picket duty, May 9th, 1862. Two men were reported killed during a Union advance near Farmington, Mississippi (six to seven miles from Corinth).

By the last of May the Union lines were within 800 to 900 yards of the Confederate's breastworks at Corinth, some skirmish lines were within 500 yards. With the southern army weakened by so much sickness, preparations were made and Corinth was evacuated on the night of May 30th. By the following morning the entire army had crossed the Tuscumbia River.

On about June 5th, the 28th Alabama was with the Army of Mississippi at Tupelo, where General Beauregard retired from command and General Braxton Bragg was appointed his successor on June 20th. While at Tupelo rations were abundant and in good quality. Men were returning from the hospitals and soon the numbers present for duty increased.

It was at Tupelo, however, that George Cargile lost his nephew, William, due to illness. He died June 25, 1862. He was 18-years-old, gray eyes, light hair, fair complexion. He was 5'10" tall.

On July 6th orders came to move to Saltillo, Mississippi, 14 miles north of Tupelo. Staying at Saltillo until July 30th the Army of Mississippi moved by railroad to Mobile, then north through Montgomery and northeast through Atlanta. After seven days they arrived at a small village near Chickamauga Creek (about ten miles from Chattanooga, TN). Two days later they encamped near Tyner's Station where they stayed awaiting their trains, artillery, etc. On August 28th the army was at Harrison's Ferry on the Tennessee River.

Brig. General Braxton Bragg now commanding the Army and General Kirby Smith who commanded a force of 18,000 Confederate troops in eastern Tennessee, constructed plans for a combined force at Cumberland Gap. Bragg would move through Kentucky in hopes of recruiting soldiers and winning support for the southern cause. Their plans were to unite the two armies into one at a given point in Kentucky.

On August 30th, 1862 the 28th Alabama Regiment marched with Bragg's army in the direction of the Cumberland Mountains, passing through Sparta, Pikesville, and Gainsboro, reaching the Cumberlands on the third day. For a day they were detained at Smith's Crossroads awaiting their trains to climb the steep ascent.

On September 5th they reached a village known as Bunker Hill on the Falling Water Creek. They remained there on the 6th, resting the men and wagon teams. After fording the Cumberland River north of Gainsboro, they crossed the Kentucky State line on September 10th, spending the night at Tompkinsville, Kentucky.

When the army arrived at Glasgow, KY, the 28th Alabama was part of a detail sent to Proctor's Station for the purpose of interrupting Union trains on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. On September 15th the detail reached a fort which was manned by a Union garrison of 4,500 troops. The 28th Alabama participated in action on the 16th, being ordered to drive in the enemy's skirmishers, who occupied a woods near the Munfordville Road. The action was successful, sending the enemy back to its trenches, holding them until the morning of the 17th, forcing the Union Commander at Munfordville to surrender unconditionally.

Col. Frazer reported that only one member of the 28th Alabama had received a wound, a private in Co. "L", shot in the finger. Col. Frazer stated in his official report, "It gratifies the commanding officer to be able to say that the men and officers were calm, cool and cheerful during the entire day and obeyed every command with great accuracy and promptness".

Within twelve hours after the Union surrender at Munfordville a considerable Union force, led by US General Buell, had moved within a few miles. The Confederate Army waited two days for Buell to attack, but instead the Union Commander moved his army toward Louisville. Meanwhile General Bragg observed this movement and ordered the southern army to move in the same direction. At first the two armies traveled along parallel routes, but after about 20 miles, Bragg changed direction toward Bardstown.

On about September 23rd, the Confederates marched through Bardstown and proceeded on the Louisville Pike. The Brigade containing the 28th Alabama moved in advance to Turkey Creek for the purpose of outpost duty. After five days or so they were relieved and rejoined the main army near Springfield Pike.

During the 4th of October the army moved through Springfield and then Perryville, reaching Harrodsburg, KY on the 6th. It was at this point that General Bragg's command was finally rejoined with the confederate force led by General Kirby Smith.

General Bragg was forced to engage in battle on October 8th, although outnumbered, his army proved successful. On the following day he fell back to Harrodsburg, forming a line of battle. On the 9th his army once again awaited a federal attack. The Union army declined and on the 11th moved to Bragg's left in an attempt to cut off and route of retreat. Upon learning the enemy's intentions, Bragg gave the order for full retreat. The southern army passed back through Harrodsburg and in the afternoon crossed Dick's River. Bragg camped his army that night near Camp Dick Robinson. Remaining at this location on the 12th, the retreat resumed the next day, following a route through Crab Orchard, Mt Vernon, London, Barboursville, Cumberland Gap, Tazewell and ending at Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Southern Cavalry, which covered the rear during the retreat, was engaged daily with the pursuing Union army. Cavalry Commander, General Joseph Wheeler had requested an infantry force to assist in holding the enemy in check. On October 19th a portion of the 28th Alabama was ordered to return to Little Rock Castle Creek (Wildcat Gap) and assist the Cavalry. Upon reaching Wheeler's position the men were deployed as skirmishers to the front. The enemy, believing that the cavalry had retired, once again advanced, only to be met by a direct and deadly fire from the 28th Alabama and Water's Alabama Battery. After driving the enemy back, the 28th Alabama held them throughout the day. This action gave the retreating southern army a day's march advantage. Pulling out the next day the detail rejoined the army at Barboursville. The losses to the 28th Alabama at Wildcat Gap were, two privates killed and one 2nd. Lieut. wounded.

By October 24th the army had reached Knoxville, ending the Kentucky campaign and a march which had taken them over 500 miles. During the retreat clothing and supplies were in poor supply. Shoes being worn out, it was reported, some men marched out of Kentucky without shoes at all. The army rested at ! Knoxville for a short time. It was during this period that the young I. W. McAdory of Co. "H" wrote in his diary, "This was a time long to be remembered by our army, we would receive rations that night, when it came, one half bushel to a man (un-shelled corn)".

Leaving Knoxville during the last part of October, General Bragg moved the army across Tennessee, through Chattanooga and Tullahoma, reaching Murfreesboro, on November 22nd, 1862. At Murfreesboro some 40,000 Confederate troops were assembled, and from that time on would be known as "The Army of Tennessee".

It was during the month of November that Col. John C. Reid replaced Col. Frazer as commander of the 28th Alabama. Col. Frazer would be appointed Brigadier General on May 19th, 1863 and command a force in eastern Tennessee.

At Murfreesboro the supplies were reported to be abundant and in good quality. Blankets, clothing and shoes were issued to those needing them. President Jefferson Davis visited the Army of Tennessee at Murfreesboro, arriving on December 10th, 1862. During his visit he ordered 10,000 troops to be moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, reducing the army by one fourth. Meanwhile, U S General William S. Rosecrans had gathered a force of over 46,000 at Nashville, 30 miles to the north.

On December 6th, General Rosecrans moved the northern army southward. Upon learning of this movement, General Bragg chose to confront the enemy at Murfreesboro. Here one of the war's most severe battles would take place, known in the south as the "Battle of Murfreesboro" and in the north as the "Battle of Stone's River".

On December 28th small skirmishes had already started and the fighting progressed for the next few days. On the morning of December 31st, the 28th Alabama was ordered to lead three separate charges. Casualties were heavy, but by the day's end they had been successful in driving the enemy from their position. They were also successful in capturing a Union Battery, Houghtaling's Battery "C", of the 1st Illinois Light Artillery.

During the next three days the 28th Alabama was constantly in the line of battle. On the night of January 3rd, 1863 the Army of Tennessee withdrew from Murfreesboro to Shelbyville, Tennessee.

At the Battle of Murfreesboro the south lost over 9,000 men killed and wounded, and over 1,000 missing. The north recorded 1,730 killed, 7,802 wounded and 3,717 captured and missing. The 28th Alabama sustained a loss of 17 killed, 88 wounded and 11 missing. A written report by Union General Rosecrans cited that the Union army had fired over 2,000,000 rifle and musket cartridges and over 20,000 rounds of artillery ammunitions.

For the next six months the two opposing armies would stay inactive, encamped less than 40 miles apart. The Army of Tennessee would spend the first half of 1863 encamped at Shelbyville, Tennessee, along the Duck River. This would be the longest period of inactivity the army would see during the war. During this time President Lincoln would issue the Emancipation Proclamation, the US Congress would draft all men between the ages of twenty and forty-five. On March 3rd, 1863 Stonewall Jackson would defeat the Union forces at Chancellorsville, Virginia, only to be accidentally shot by his own men. Union General U.S. Grant would defeat the confederate troops at Port Gibson, Mississippi, again at Raymond, Mississippi and siege the city of Vicksburg on May 19th. On the same day General Robert E. Lee would start a second invasion of the north from Fredericksburg, Virginia and siege York, Pennsylvania on June 28th. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought during the first days of July. July 4th brought the surrender of over 30,000 confederate troops at Vicksburg and in New York, on July 31st, 50,000 people rioted due to the imposed draft.

The 28th Alabama spent this period as most regiments at Shelbyville, conducting camp duties. Picket and outpost duty came about every fourth week. Snow storms occurred during the winter, covering everything for weeks, preventing suitable opportunities for drill or instruction. During April, the 28th Alabama was part of a detachment located at the Louisburg Pike, sent to guard the artillery camp. They were relieved of this duty around June 20th.

On June 27th, at daybreak, the Army of Tennessee evacuated Shelbyville and moved toward Tullahoma, Tennessee. In anticipation that the enemy might cut their line of supply from Chattanooga, the army moved swiftly, sometimes marching over night. They reached Chattanooga on July 6th, a permanent camp was established and camp duties once again resumed.

On August 20th, the 28th Alabama move with their division, crossing Lookout Mountain and continuing several miles west up the Waukatchie Valley. They retained this position until the evening of August 23rd, at which time they re-crossed Lookout Mountain and moved to within three miles of Chattanooga. On August 30th the division marched east of Chattanooga to Chickamauga Creek. The position which they retained was located across the creek from the enemy.

While camped along Chickamauga Creek the men serving on picket duty spoke freely across to the enemy soldiers serving picket duty on the other side. While bathing, some were said to have swam to the middle to meet and talk. Not a shot was fired during the days spent here. The division moved out on September 2nd. The next few days were taken up in maneuvering around Chattanooga and at various times skirmishing with the enemy. The division soon moved to Lafayette and remain there until the night of September 17th, when they relocated to Lee and Gordon's Mill. The next morning they came under fire from an enemy battery. Little damage was done, with only one man reported wounded. They remain at Lee and Gordon's Mill and employed Companies "B" and "G" of the 28th Alabama as skirmishers. Around five o'clock orders came to move by the right flank, bringing them closer to the creek bank where they spent the night of September 18th. On the morning of the 19th the fighting opened to the right, the 28th Alabama was ordered to move closer to the enemy. With companies "B" and "G" engaging the enemy at about 2:00 that afternoon, the remainder of the regiment crossed Chickamauga Creek and marched in quick time toward the fighting. Around 4:00 they gave support to Robertson's Brigade who had been attacked by a large enemy force. The enemy was driven back and the regiment bivouacked for the night.

Early on the morning of September 20th, the 28th Alabama was in line awaiting the order to advance. Receiving that order about 11:00, the regiment moved forward. They drove the enemy back before having time to fire but a few rounds. Elated by their success, the regiment quickly moved forward in pursuit. They finally halted, but only due to command. Later in the day Company "A", "I" and "K" would volunteer to rescue a piece of artillery lost by Water' Alabama Battery. Afterwards, Company "A" would led the regiment as skirmishers, fighting the enemy for about an hour. At approximately 4:00 the 28th Alabama

was ordered to attack, experiencing the most desperate and hotly contested field of the day. Before sunset, with support from the 44th Tennessee, the 28th Alabama made one last assault, driving the enemy demoralized from the field.

No exact numbers are given as to the loss in men the 28th Alabama suffered during these actions. Figures pertaining to Manigault's Brigade states; of the 1,850 men which made up the brigade, 539 were killed or wounded. Casualties for the Army of Tennessee were 17,800 total. The Battle of Chickamauga had been a successful one for the Confederacy, but due to the large number of men lost, General Bragg refused to take the advice of his officers and recapture Chattanooga. Instead he took positions on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge which overlooked the city. There the Army of Tennessee waited.

The brigade advanced at 11:20 A.M., its center crossed the road at this point, and directed its march toward the Widow Glenn's. Upon nearing that point its left, the 24th, 28th and 34th Alabama, was charged by Wilder's Brigade, dismounted, assisted by the 29th Indiana Col. Harrison, also dismounted and forced back east of the Lafayette Road. Subsequently this portion of the brigade advanced, rejoined the 10th and 19th South Carolina, and the whole proceeded to the vicinity of the Vittetoe House where it formed on the left of Bushrod R. Johnson's Division, and took part in the afternoon assault of Snodgrass Hill.

The Brigade reached this position from the vicinity of Viniard's about 3:00. Upon reporting to General Bushrod Johnson the Brigade was placed on his left. The 10th and 19th South Carolina ascended the spur and joined Johnson's Brigade. While the center and left extended across the ravine. Deas' Brigade operated against the spur to the left. The line advanced about 3:30 to attack the general repulsed. The left of Manigault and Deas falling back to the foot of the hill, and not being subsequently engaged. The 10th and 19th South Carolina, the 28th Alabama and part of the 34th Alabama took part with Johnson's troops in final advance just before sunset and followed the enemy over the crest in his withdrawal.

At 3:00 the Brigade arrived at Vittetoe's and formed on the left of Johnson's Brigade of Bushrod R. Johnson's Division, with Deas' Brigade on its left. It took part in the assaults on Snodgrass Hill, its right reaching the crest of the spur east of the Vittetoe! House and its center advancing through the ravine near the house leading up to the ridge. The right maintained its position on the hill upon the left of Johnson's Brigade until the enemy retired. Strength in action: 2,315 officers and men. Casualties: Killed 67, wounded 434, missing 46, total 547, percentage of loss 23.6.

The Confederate Force stationed itself on Lookout Mountain, across Chattanooga Creek and along the northwest face of Missionary Ridge. At this position they were able to control the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. The wagon road along the north bank of the Tennessee River was made impassable by the southern artillery and sharpshooters posted on Raccoon Mountain.

At this time it was the strategy of the southern command to starve the enemy out. With the Union forces down to quarter rations and in danger of being captured, the government in Washington started actions to rectify this situation. On October 17th, 1863 General! U.S. Grant was given command over all Northern operations east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio Rivers, making his headquarters at Chattanooga.

During mid October Confederate President Jefferson Davis would make his second visit to the Army of Tennessee. Like the first visit, he made a critical move that would result in weakening the army's strength. He ordered General Longstreet, together with a force of about 15,000 troops to move into east Tennessee as a diversion, hoping to capture Knoxville.

Meanwhile General Grant went to work and soon opened a new line of supply to Chattanooga, by which the northern troops were able to receive food and munitions. General Rosecrans was replaced by General George H. Thomas. General William T. Sherman was ordered to east Tennessee, bringing with him some 25,000 Union troops. General Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker would also be summoned, accompanied by approximately 16,000 Union troops. By late November, General Grant would have a total of over 80,000 men for duty, substantially outnumbering the Confederates.

During late November the 28th Alabama was part of a force which had secured a line of defense along the foot of Missionary Ridge, at Orchard Knob. On the afternoon of the 23rd, the 28th Alabama, along with the 24th Alabama held the picket line occupying a front of about 800 yards. They were entrenched in a shallow ditch and low earthworks, with rifle pits a little in advance. At about 4:30 the enemy formed two lines of battle with skirmishers in front and began to advance. At about 5:00 the enemy came within range

and the fighting commenced. The first line of Union troops were checked by the fire of the 28th and 24th Alabama, but soon joined by their second line the enemy advanced in spite of heavy fire. Soon the oncoming union force came in contact with the 28th Alabama, which were reported "to have behaved well, resisting obstinately and fought with great gallantry. Many fought hand to hand, and at bayonet's point."

George Cargile had witnessed the will of William R. McAdory that was written in Walker County, Georgia on September 17, 1863. Unfortunately, McAdory was killed at Missionary Ridge. Apparently, George Cargile and William McAdory were good friends. George was raised to 3rd Corporal.

Col. John C. Reid would later maintain that he was under orders to hold his position at all hazards, and the 28th Alabama fought to do so at a great cost in casualties. Before finally being ordered to retire, the 28th Alabama lost 172 men killed, wounded and captured. Also captured was their Regimental Flag.

Again on November 25th, the 28th Alabama would feel the heat of battle. During this conflict many men of other regiments attempted to pass to the rear, in efforts to escape the enemy. The Provost Guard had been ordered to shoot any who tried to run Reports state that the 28th Alabama "stood their ground and were fighting manfully."

During the night the Army of Tennessee would retreat across Chickamauga Creek. They moved on to Ringgold, Georgia on November 26th and arrived near Dalton, Georgia on the 27th. Shortly after General Bragg was replaced as commander of the army by General Joseph E. Johnston.

The regiment occupied the crest of the elevated knoll southeast of this position, as support to the Confederate picket line deployed in advance of this outpost about 2:00 P.M. November 23rd, when Wood's Division with an effective force of over 5,000, as the center of the advance of the enemy moved rapidly forward from Fort Wood Slope, drove in the skirmish line to this position dispersed the outpost holding Orchard Knob and threatened this portion of the line from flank and rear, while the regiment was fiercely engaged with Hazen's Brigade in front, in a bayonet encounter. Out flanked and overwhelmed, a large portion of the regiment was captured, but not till it had inflicted a loss on Hazen's Brigade alone, in killed and wounded 167, the regiment lost its colors and many officers and men captured. Killed and wounded not reported.

On November 23rd a portion of Manigault's Brigade held Orchard Knob and the low rocky ridge to the south of it. Upon the advance of the enemy in force, the 28th Alabama, misunderstanding its orders to be to hold its position at all hazards, remained in rifle pits fighting, and 146 officers and men, and the colors were captured. During the 24th of November the front rank of the brigade occupied the works at the foot of the ridge and on the afternoon of the 25th fell back before the Union advance and joined the rear rank on the crest of the ridge. Deas' Brigade was on its right and Anderson's (Tucker's) on its left. In the general assault it was attacked by the left of Wood's Division. Its position being carried, it retreated with its division to Chickamauga, crossing by Shallowford Road.

The Army of Tennessee contracted shelter at Dalton, Georgia and went into winter quarters. During the winter there were furloughs granted, enabling some to return home to visit their families. Some had families that came to visit at Dalton.

It is not known if George Cargile took furlough or not at this point, but we do know he reenlisted to serve out his three years of service.

On January 23rd, 1864 most members of the 28th Alabama reenlisted for the duration of the war. The next few months were spent training, target practice, drilling and maneuvers. For recreation there was baseball games, races and wrestling matches. On the 23rd day of February the 28th Alabama was ordered into battle, but never seriously engaged. They returned to camp on February 28th.

May 1864 brought the bloody struggle for Atlanta. Fighting occurred on a daily basis. The 28th Alabama took part in various degrees, losing heavily in proportion to the men it had available for duty. Very little detailed information is available concerning the 28th. Alabama, however the regiment participated in the following battles and skirmishes in and around Atlanta during the Summer of 1864.

Due to his failure to defeat the enemy at Atlanta, General Johnston was replaced by General John B. Hood as Commander of the Army of Tennessee. During August 1864 the 28th Alabama was part of the army that occupied Atlanta during the siege. On August 31st they fought in the Battle of Jonesboro, and on September 1st left Atlanta along with the Army of Tennessee in their evacuation.

Thereafter Union General William T. Sherman would occupy Atlanta giving the order for civilian evacuation on September 4th. Upon partially burning the city, General Sherman started his "March to the Sea" on November 15th.

While Sherman and his army marched across Georgia, burning most everything in their path, General Hood led the southern army across Tennessee toward Nashville. The 28th Alabama being part of the first troops to reach Spring Hill, TN on November 29th. On November 30th, with only part of the army available, General Hood ordered them into battle. Some 18,000 men moved forward over a mile and a half of bluegrass fields. 6,000 men were either killed, wounded or captured at the Battle of Franklin. This is said to have been the only night attack authorized by the confederates during the war. During December 1864 came the Battle of Nashville where Lieut. Colonel William L. Butler, then Commander of the 28th Alabama, was wounded and captured. During these two final engagements of 1864 the 28th Alabama lost severely in men killed, wounded and captured.

After their defeat in Nashville, the Army of Tennessee retreated into Mississippi. Early in 1865 one last effort was made by the south, General Johnston was brought back from retirement to once again command the army. His plan was to stop Union General Sherman's invasion of the Carolinas. At this time the 28th Alabama was in route across Alabama and Georgia to North Carolina to join General Johnston.

Before ever reaching Johnston, his efforts were defeated at Bentonville, North Carolina. On March 10th, the day after General Lee's surrender to General Grant at Appomattox, the 28th Alabama was consolidated with the 24th and 34th Alabama Regiments retaining the numbers and colors of the 24th. On March 31st, the 28th Alabama rejoined its brigade at Smithfield. Unaware of Lee's surrender, the regiment marched toward Greensboro, North Carolina. As they advanced it became clear that the end had come. They finally surrendered at Greensboro on April 26th, 1865.

At the time of surrender no exact numbers are given as to how many members of the 28th Alabama were present. Over 1600 men are on record as serving with the regiment during the war. The brigade to which the regiment belonged recorded 3500 men served but only 450 were at Greensboro to surrender. Most of the remaining members of the 28th Alabama were paroled at locations within the state of Alabama.

George Cargile went to Selma, as records show. At this time, Alabama Governor, A.B. Moore gave an executive order to promote him to 3rd Lieutenant. Records show that while in Selma, which was one of the last sites for Confederate artillery, George Cargile was furloughed, never to return.

George Cargile had served his three years of service and the War for Independence was over. Records show him being paid \$44.00 at one time, and \$114.00 another time. There might have been more pay checks, but these are the only two I could find.

Interestingly, the cost of supplies were paid for by each soldier. The cost of a cap was \$2.00, a covering for the cap was 38 cents, jackets sold for \$14.00, pants \$12.00, shirts \$3.00, trousers \$3.00, shoes \$10.00, clocks \$1.00, blankets \$10.00. An Enfield rifle cost \$10.00, a musket \$10.00, a bayonet scabbard \$2.50, cartridge boxes \$6.00, cap pouches \$2.00, waist belts \$2.00, snap socks \$6.50, and socks 50 cents.

George returned home in early 1865 and he and Martha gave birth to their last child -- George Monroe -- who was born October 22, 1865.

He continued farming and on his farm with him on January 8, 1869, George was struck by a scythe in the wheat fields by Sam Burchfield, a nephew. George survived until July 31, 1869 before he died. What prompted the incitement no one knows. Sam Burchfield fled by night when George died and behind him in a covered wagon went George's brothers and sisters chasing after Burchfield. George Cargile was buried at Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

Burchfield ended up in Arkansas, while his brothers and a sister went to Titus County, Texas. There they would settle.

In 1870, Martha Laird Cargile is listed as living in Jefferson County, Alabama in Township 18, Range 6 West. Martha is listed as a farmer, age 40, Sarah 21, who kept house; James Charlie, 18, farm help; David, 13, farm help; Rebecca, 10, at home; George Monroe, 5, at home.

Ironically, Martha Laird Cargile and her family, were surrounded by two Burchfield families. Martha died January 15, 1896, and she is buried next to George Cargile at Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

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The following papers were sent to me by E.D. Wilson of Houston, Texas, which chronicles the 28th Alabama Regiment of Volunteers through one soldier's point of view. The second part is a story about Captain William Rose McAdory.

George Cargile witnessed his will written in Walker County, Georgia 17 September 1863. McAdory was killed in battle at Missionary Ridge in Georgia.

McAdory High School in Bessemer is named after William R. McAdory.