

Tidbits about Civil War veterans buried in the BC Cemetery: Focus on Milton Turner Battle

Up front caveats

What is to be related here is based on a compilation of sources of variable reliability, including:

- Primary sources (census, birth, death, land, military records)
- NC Troops (based on both military records and recollections)
- Newspaper accounts
- Published family trees
- Published family narratives

To the extent practicable, efforts have been made to independently validate information, but it's possible that some of the supposedly validating material isn't really independent.

Don't assume every detail is gospel true, but the general theme of this tangled web certainly is.

Family tree sources

- “Battles” and “Milton Turner and Sarah Ann Shuler Battle Family” – Swain County Heritage
- Lilstar612 tree on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
- Ramonawoodrum tree on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

At least twenty-five men who served during the Civil War are buried in the BC Cemetery

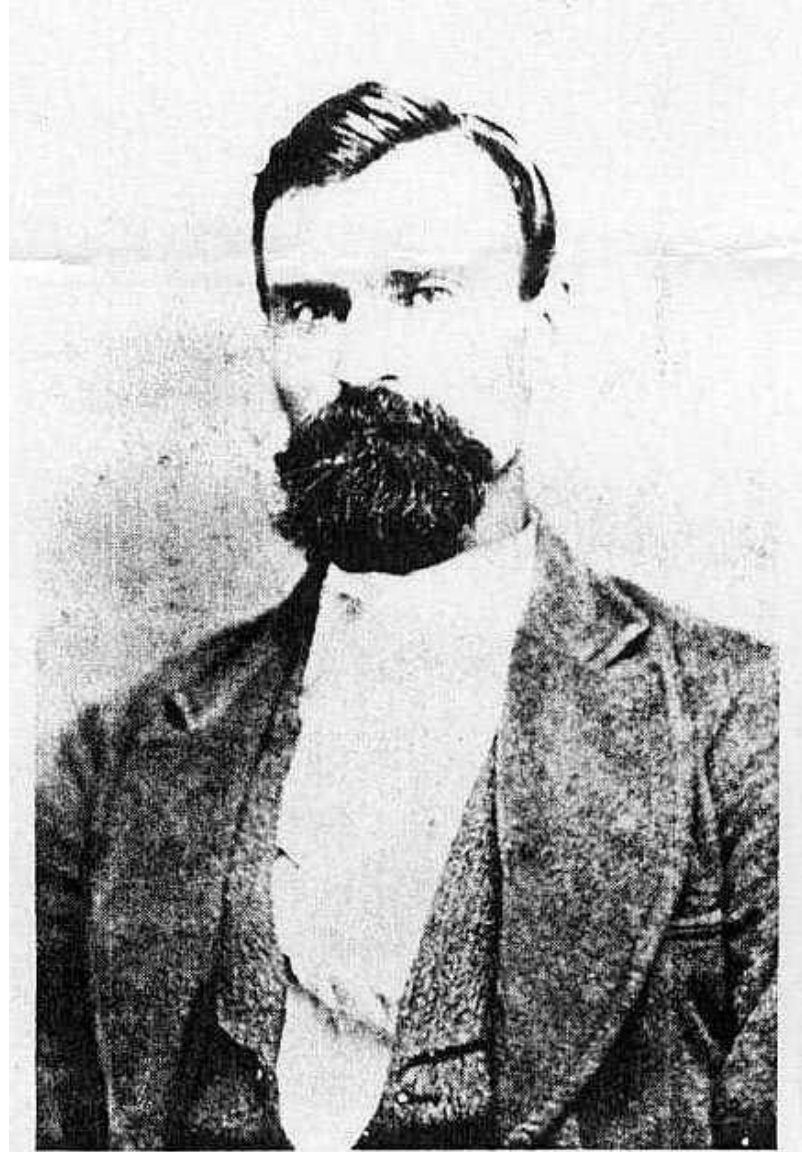
Milton Turner Battle (1841-1917)	Co. B, 7 NC Cavalry
Thaddeus Dillard Bryson (1829-1890)	Co. B, 25 NC Infantry (Captain)
Alfred Cline (1832-1866)	2 nd Co. A, Thomas Legion (Sergeant)
John W Cline (1840-1916)	2 nd Co. A, Thomas Legion
David Kimsey Collins (1844-1924)	Co. F, Thomas Legion (Lieutenant)
John Constant (1836-1915)	Co. K, 1 NC Cavalry*
Dr. Joel A Cooper (1847-1932)	Co. H, Thomas Legion
William F Cooper (1845-1928)	Co. H, Thomas Legion (and James Welch's Co.)
W Aseph Enloe (1847-1925)	Co. F, Thomas Legion
Epp Everett (1830-1903)	Co. E, 3 rd TN Mounted Infantry; also Thomas Legion (Captain)
JL Farley (1847-1932)	Co. G, Thomas Legion
Daniel G Fisher (1842-1904)	Co's. F, G of Thomas Legion, Co. K, 39 NC Infantry (Lieutenant)
Joshua Ammons Franks (1843-1906)	Co. I, 39 NC Infantry (Sergeant)
Jonathan Hill (1824-1912)	Co. F, Thomas Legion
James Nathan Lipscomb (1827-1891)	2 nd SC Cavalry Regiment (Colonel)
Woodfin K McLean (1848-1906)	Co. F, 2 NC Mtd Infantry
Dabney Sandidge	Co. H, 3 Missouri Infantry
Dr. E.M. Scruggs (1829-1895)	Co. H, 16 NC Infantry
J.M. Seay (1839-1898)	Co. A, 16 NC Infantry, Co. A, Thomas Legion, Co. K, 39 Infantry
J.M. Seay (1839-1898)	3rd NC Mtd. Infantry (Kirk's Raiders, Union)
Jeremiah Shank (1847-1930)	Co. C, 156 Ohio Infantry
L.H. Stallcup	Co. K, 1 NC Cavalry
W.M. Taylor (1847-1930)	Co. K, 1 NC Cavalry
Dr. J.E.T. Welch (1848-1921)	Thomas Legion
John Manous Welch (1846-1921)	Co. K, 1 NC Cavalry
Jackson L. Wilson (1828-1913)	Co. E, 3rd Mounted TN Infantry

Milton Turner Battle (1841-1917)

- Enlisted at Hayesville in what was originally Co. B, 7th Battalion NC Cavalry on July 5, 1862. It was mustered into service on July 10 as “Captain William P. Moore’s Co., Folk’s Battalion.”
- In 1863, as part of a consolidation, it was changed to Co. F, 65th Regiment (6th Regiment NC Cavalry)
- Much time was spent in East TN – from Sullivan County (far NE portion), around Clinton & Knoxville, Sweetwater, and then they were involved in the battle at Chickamauga
- Accounted for through June 1864
- Suggested reading: Sergeant [WC Penland letters](#) to his folks in Clay County paint a mostly dismal picture of the time (link is to final letter; a list of previous letters is at the end of the article)
- Pension applications were made by Battle, and after his death, by his wife Sarah Ann Shuler
- Grandfather of FBCC member Hall Battle



Milton and Sarah Ann Shuler Battle
Source: Battle family



Milton Turner Battle circa 1890

Source: dgreen4556, Ancestry.com

“Irish Bill” Moore or, per my mother (his great niece) “Captain Billy”



Wounds healed over time:

Captain Billy (front left, Confederate - NC) visiting John L Moore
(seated, Union - TN) in the Aquone area in 1893



Source: www.nantahalanc.com/OldAquone.html

William Patton Moore home in Tusquitee Valley



As a rule members of cavalry units were more well-to-do than those in the infantry; they provided their own horses, and received a less than full stipend for incurred expenses.

Battle familial connections

- The following is based on a combination of family tree data, census and other public records; some are more reliable than others
- Sarah Ann Shuler (V-H12b), wife of MT Battle (V-H12a), was the daughter of Elizabeth Louisa Battle Shuler (V-B05).
- Elizabeth Louisa's father was Watson C Battle, uncle of MT Battle.
- One sibling of Elizabeth Louisa was Margaret M Battle Welch (V-B10), wife of John Manous Welch (V-B09)
- Another of Elizabeth Louisa's sisters was Sarah Amanda Battle, who married R.L.D. Birchfield (or Burchfield)

Alfred Cline was killed by the "Robert Burchfield robbers" (Charlotte Democrat, 9 Oct 1866)

A man by the name of Cline, residing in the lower part of Jackson county, was shot down in cold blood, a short time since, by a band of marauders from Tennessee, known as the Robert Burchfield robbers. Four of them came to the house of Cline a little while before dark, called him out, and pretended that they wanted to trade with him, he being a merchant, loitered about until dark, then pretended that they wanted a candle to count out their money. As soon as the candle came, without saying a word, two of them shot him—the balls taking effect near his heart, causing instant death. He leaves a wife and a large number of small children to mourn his loss. The murderers were able to make their escape to the dominions of Governor Brownlow.

Another portion, including the notable Bob Burchfield himself, about the same time penetrated into the lower portion of Cherokee county, went to the house of a Mrs. Gunter, fired upon two of her sons, wounding one of them seriously. They, too, made their escape to the same rendezvous.

Burchfield convicted of counterfeiting (Knoxville Weekly Chronicle, 26 Nov 1873)

North Carolina Counterfeiters] Convicted.

An Asheville (N. C.) letter to the New York *Tribune*, of the 17th, gives the following result of the counterfeit trials at that point in the United States Court:

Judge Dick has concluded the labors of this session of his court at Asheville, and last Saturday it was adjourned. The Court has been employed in trying the persons charged with issuing and dealing in counterfeit money, and the records of Saturday night show the following convictions: David Frazier, for passing and dealing in counterfeit gold coin of the denomination of \$2.50, was sentenced to hard labor in the penitentiary for three years. Lee Bocker, a resident and planter in West Virginia, was convicted as a wholesale dealer. Jason S. Hyde, who was formerly the High Sheriff of Graham county, was found guilty of conspiracy with others to pass and deal in counterfeit money, and was sentenced to hard labor for two years and to pay a fine of \$1,000. The fact came out in his trial that this man, hitherto trusted with the execution of the law, has been for years hand-and-glove with robbers.

Adam Cable was sentenced for two years at hard labor and a fine of \$1,000. He is a rich planter of Chewoah, Graham county. He is one of the most villainous-looking of the gang, but his wealth has enabled him to shield himself from the consequences of his numerous crimes. Joel Doying received a similar sentence. He has been one of the most active of the dealers and "shovers" in this State. R. L. D. Burchfield, of Charleston, Swain county, got the full benefit of the law—two years and a fine of \$1,000. During the war, he was first in the Confederate service, and then a captain in the Union army. The result of his trial is a very satisfactory one to the law-abiding citizens of this State, and reflects the highest credit upon the brave and most efficient officers of the secret service of the Government, whose skill has brought him to his just deserts. Mrs. Louisa Pennelly was only given six months in jail. She was arrested in Knoxville. When arrested she had some \$200 in counterfeit money on her person. Mrs. R. L. D. Burchfield was convicted, but in consideration of sex, and the fact that she has a babe about eight months old, her sentence was suspended.

Sarah Amanda Battle Burchfield (Mrs. R.L.D. Burchfield) was a 1st cousin to Jason Hyde. Incidentally, both were 1st cousins of Lavisia Hyde, wife of Quill Rose. Both Jason Hyde and Quill Rose spent time in the Thomas Legion

"End of a Bad Man"

Account of the death of Robert Burchfield

Wilmington Morning Star, 27 Aug 1876

END OF A BAD MAN.

Death of an Ex-Kirkite—Burchfield,
the Penitentiary Bird and Republi-
can Congressional Aspirant, Shot
While Stealing Corn.

[Asheville Citizen.]

On Saturday night, the 4th inst., R. L. Burchfield, a citizen of Swain county, an ex-officer of the infamous Kirk, and an occupant of the Albany penitentiary for two years for counterfeiting—who would liked to have served the Radical party of his district in Congress—was killed under the following circumstances: Burchfield lived within one mile of Charleston, the county seat of Swain; Mr. D. K. Collins is a merchant living in Charleston, and had incurred the enmity of Burchfield by having been a witness against him at the time of his conviction as a counterfeiter, this enmity having found vent on several occasions by threats against both the life and property of Collins. During the week Mr. Collins had become aware of the fact that Burchfield was engaged in filing a key to fit his granary, and had watched for him several nights. On Saturday night Mr. Collins hid himself behind some planks some ten steps from the granary door, and armed with a double barreled shot-gun loaded with buck-shot, and a navy pistol, awaited his result. About 12 o'clock Burchfield approached the door of the house, having a frow under his arm, and with his key endeavored to open the door, but the key not fitting he stepped back from the door apparently deliberating what next to do. At

this juncture Mr. Collins hailed him and asked him what he was doing there. Burchfield turned towards him, endeavored to draw his pistol and commenced to advance, when Collins fired upon him with his gun, the load taking effect just above the left hip, inflicting a terrible wound; he continued to advance, however, to within three feet of where Collins was standing, still endeavoring to bring his pistol to bear upon the latter, when Collins fired upon him with his pistol, the ball taking effect in the breast, causing Burchfield to fall backwards with the exclamation that he was killed. Collins immediately repaired to the residence of the sheriff and informed him of what had been done, and the two arrived upon the spot within a few minutes, the wounded man dying in some fifteen minutes after being shot, but without being enabled to say anything. The key with which he attempted to enter the building was still in his hand when he fell.

Mr. Collus on the Tuesday following was examined before two magistrates and discharged, on the ground of justifiable homicide. Judge Cannon, it is stated, *publicly said* that he intended to have Collins before him on a bench warrant and to refuse him any bail, but finding the sentiment of even his own party against him, this idea was abandoned.

Burchfield leaves a wife and seven children, and his wife had that night begged him to desist from visiting Mr. Collins' granary, but to no avail. He was considered a desperate man, and was almost universally feared and shunned.

The shotgun used by DK Collins to dispatch RLD Birchfield



Source: Ancestry.com page of Dawna Carlton (FBCC member, great-great granddaughter of DK Collins)

Tuckaseigee River

No. 19 No. 15 No. 11 No. 7 No. 3

No. 2 No. 6 No. 10 No. 14 No. 18 No. 22 NO. 24 No. 26 No. 28

Main Street

Main Street

No. 20 No. 16 No. 12 No. 8

No. 4

No. 1

No. 5 No. 9 No. 13 No. 17 No. 21 No. 23 No. 25 No. 27

Church Street

Church Street

No. 38 No. 36 No. 34 No. 32 No. 30

Gushing Lane (Everett Street)

No. 29 No. 31 No. 33 No. 35 No. 37 No. 39 No. 40 No. 41 No. 42

Original Lot Development Plan for Charleston Township

Some town property acquired by MT and Sarah Battle

By 1882, the Battles had acquired lots 21,23,25, and 27 on the south side of Main Street; this partly overlaps with the area which would later be acquired by Mary C. Hyatt Bennett (lots 17, 21, 23) and become the home of A.M. and Mary, then later Bennett's Court (Gracey Manor).

In 1885, the Battles acquired lot 26 from I.B. and Ida E. Franks Conley. They lived there until selling it to John and Emma Burnett in 1913. John was a state representative. This lot was located in the vicinity of what was later Moody Funeral Home.

At the time of that sale, OP Williams owned the lot to the west (24) and JE Coburn owned the lot to the east (28). Prior to this, lot 28 had been owned by Rev. JP and his wife, Ann Reynolds. They sold it to WT Conley on 8 Dec 1905.

Rev. JP Reynolds, Methodist Episcopal South minister and, his first wife, Alice Pickens bought lot 28 from I.B. and Ida Franks Conley in 1885. The couple and infant son Albert are buried about 10 yards away from MT & Sarah Battle.