

**NINE BROTHERS --
SEVEN SERVED IN THE
CIVIL WAR**

Gettysburg and Other
Stories

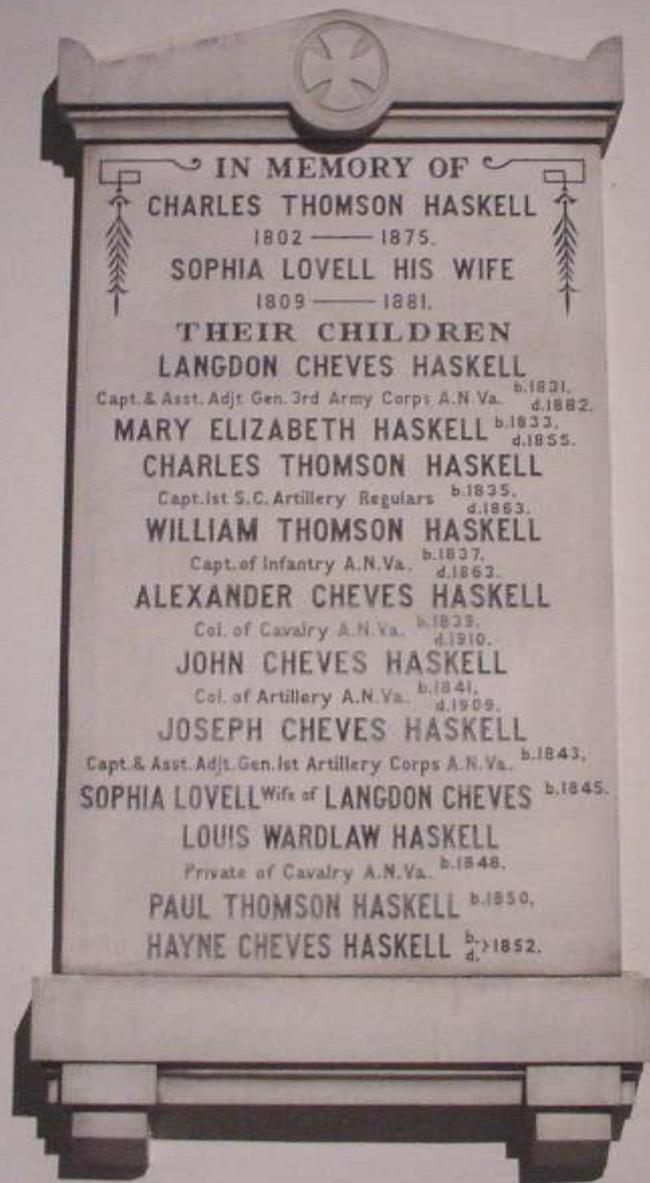


A Mother's Sons



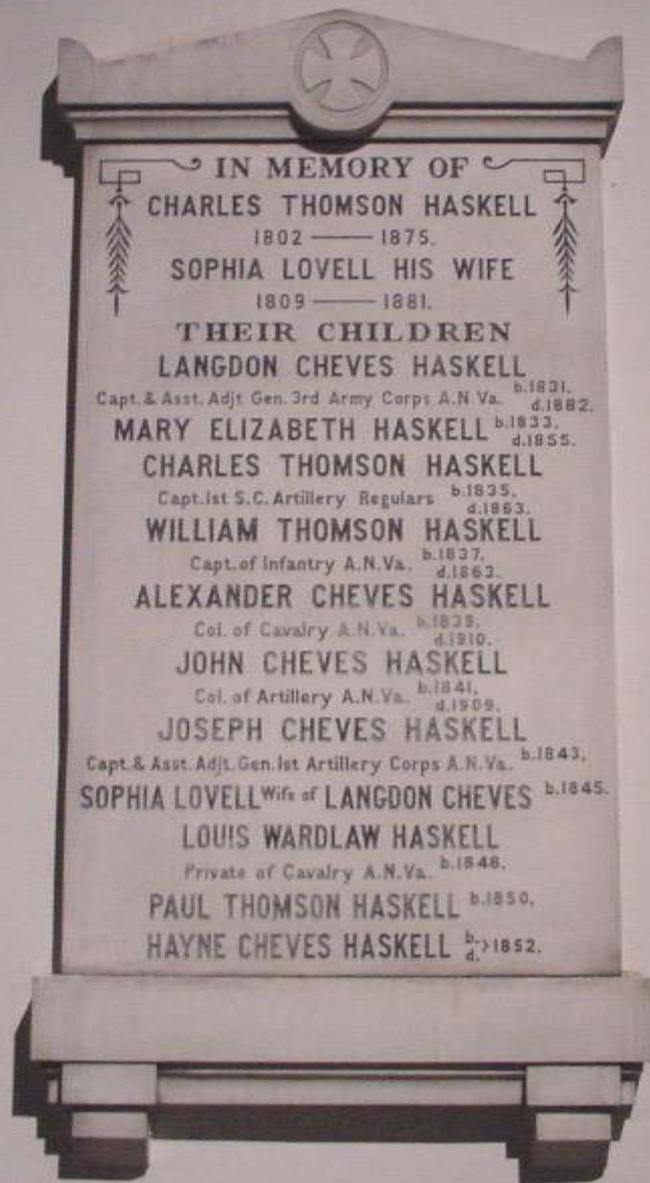
Mrs. Charles Thomson
Haskell (Sophia Lovell
Cheves Haskell)

“Mrs. Haskell had seven sons in the army around Richmond when I met her at Mrs. Stanard’s in one of the several visits she made to tend their wounds. All of them had been privates in the army before the firing on Sumter. She was ever quiet, but genial; hiding what suspense and anguish held her...” *Belles, Beaux and Brains of the Sixties* Thomas Cooper DeLeon (1909)



The following sons served the Confederacy:

1. Langdon Cheves Haskell served with General Maxcy Gregg and General A.P. Hill.
2. Charles Thomson Haskell was a Captain in the First Carolina Regulars.
3. William Thomson Haskell was a Captain of Infantry who served under A.P. Hill.
4. Alexander Cheves Haskell rose to the rank of Colonel of the Cavalry.
5. John Cheves Haskell was a Colonel of the Artillery Corps.
6. Joseph Cheves Haskell was a Captain & Asst. Adj. General in the Artillery.
7. Lewis Wardlaw Haskell was a private in the Cavalry.



The ones who did not serve were the three daughters :

1. Mary Elizabeth - also known as Marie Elise Courtonne.
2. Charlotte Thomson Haskell born after Charles Thomson - but lived only a few days (*not shown on the memorial*).
3. Sophia Lovell Haskell who married Langdon Cheves.

Also the two brothers who did not serve:

1. Paul Thomson Haskell (too young to serve)
2. Hayne Cheves Haskell, who only lived two weeks and was buried by his sister (who also died young) Charlotte at Rocky River Church in SC.

Memorial in Trinity Episcopal Church, Abbeville, SC

<http://trinityabbesc.org/>

*Haskell Participants in
Battle of Gettysburg*



Confederate

*Thomas B. Haskell -- NC
John Cheves Haskell -- SC
Joseph Cheves Haskell -- SC
Langdon Cheves Haskell -- SC
William H. Haskell -- SC
William Thomson Haskell -- SC*

Of the seven brothers who served in the Civil War, four were at Gettysburg (from oldest to youngest):

Langdon Cheves Haskell

William Thomson Haskell

John Cheves Haskell

Joseph Cheves Haskell

While the three “original” Haskell brothers settled in New England -- and if the reunion invitation is correct that 57 Haskells fought for the North in Gettysburg -- how is it that four of the six Haskells from the South were all from the same family?

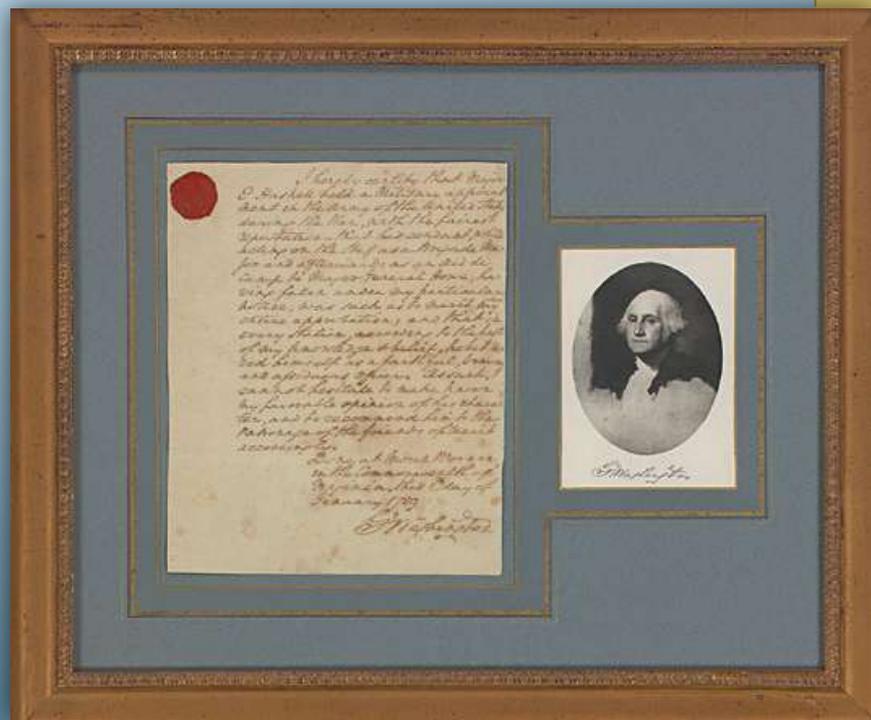
One clue is found in this picture which is in the rotunda at the nation's capitol. It is John Trumbull's depiction of the surrender of British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga, New York on October 17, 1777 - a long way from the South.





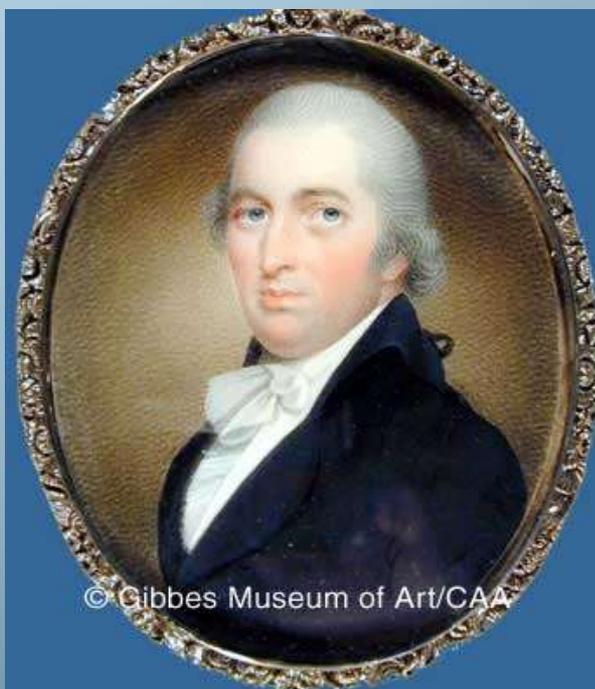
Major Elnathan Haskell

For the purposes of our story, Elnathan Haskell's subsequent experiences in the Revolutionary War resulted in learning about South Carolina and resettling from the north and marrying Charlotte Thomson, the daughter of South Carolina's own war hero -- William Thomson.



"I hereby certify that Major E. Haskell held a military appointment in the army of the United States during the war, with the fairest reputation - that his conduct, while acting on the staff as a Brigade Major and afterwards as an aid de camp to Major General Howe, having fallen under my particular notice was such as to merit my entire approbation; and that in every station according to the best of my knowledge and belief, he behaved himself as a faithful, brave and assiduous officer. As such, I cannot hesitate to make known my favorable opinion of his character and to recommend him to the patronage of the Friends of Merit accordingly. Done at Mt. Vernon in the Commonwealth of Virginia this 1st Day of January 1789," and is signed, "G^o. Washington."

Charleston Reunion participants might remember
two miniatures at the Gibbes Museum
The Grandparents of our Civil War Brothers



© Gibbes Museum of Art/CAA

Elnathan Haskell
1755-1825



© Gibbes Museum of Art/CAA

Charlotte Thomson
1769-1850

Their third child was Charles Thomson Haskell, b. at Amelia Township, S.C., 2 March 1802. He marr. 1 December 1830 to Sophia Lovell Cheves. (See slide #3.)

I'll let my Great Grandfather, Alexander Cheves Haskell introduce his brothers and sisters – the 12 children of Charles Thomson Haskell –
From Louise Haskell Daly's Portrait of a Man:

1. Langdon Cheves was born in 1831 while his parents lived at Fort Motte, of Revolutionary fame in St. Matthew's Parish of Amelia Township... my parents in 1832 moved to Abbeville, SC, which was part of the territory of '96' during the Revolution.
2. Mary Elizabeth, Marie Elise Courtonne, was born in Abbeville at the new home in the old "Starke House" where we lived until I was five years old, when the new house was built. She was named for her mother's mother, Mary Elizabeth Dulles, who married Langdon Cheves.
3. Charles Thomson was born in 1835 and was named after our father.
4. Charlotte Thomson, the name of my father's mother was next born and lived but a few days.
5. William Thomson, born in the latter part of 1837, was named after our Great-grandfather, Col. William Thomson of the Revolution and one of the principal actors at Fort Moultrie... received the thanks of Congress. (See: <http://thomsonpark.wordpress.com/colonel-william-danger-thomson-1727-1796/>)

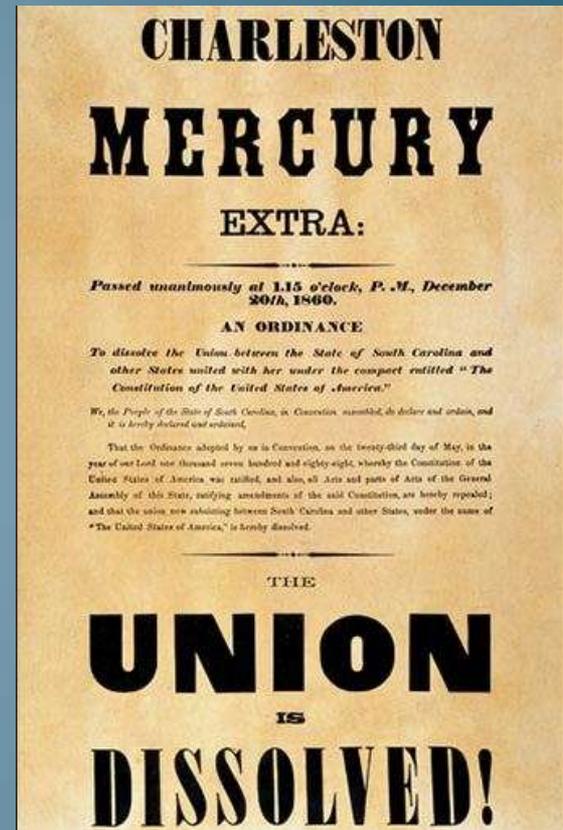
6. "I came (Alexander Cheves Haskell), the center of the 'eleven,' born 22 September, 1839. I was named in memory of Mother's second brother, Alexander Cheves, who bore the name of her grandfather, Alexander Cheves, who came from Scotland about 1770.
7. Next was John Cheves, named after his uncle, John Cheves. He was born in 1841.
8. Then Joseph Cheves, named after Mother's oldest brother, who had died years before Joseph was born in 1843.
9. Then Sophia Louisa was born on Christmas Day in 1845. She has her Mother's name and her Aunt's, Mrs. Louisa Cheves McCord.
10. Lewis Wardlaw, born in 1847, was named for our dear and honored friend, Judge David Lewis Wardlaw of Abbeville.
11. Paul Thomson, born in 1849, bears the name of our Father's uncle to whom he was much attached.
12. Hayne Cheves was born at the 'Cabins' in the summer of 1851 and died when he was about two weeks old.

Now we'll turn to what led to the brothers' military service...



Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, via the Library of Congress

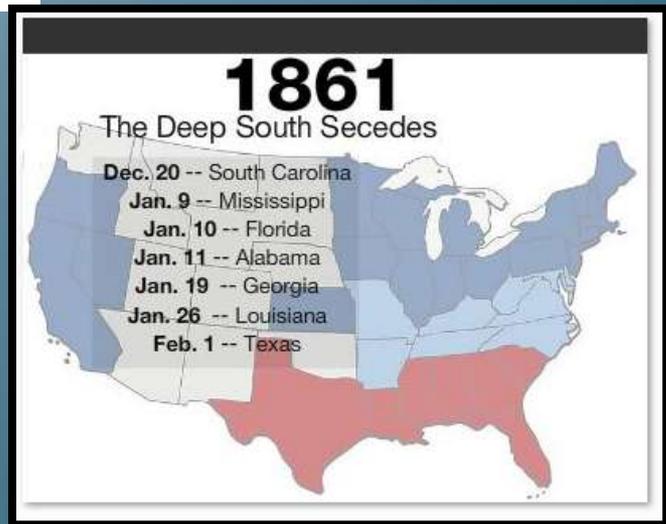
The secession meeting at Mills House in Charleston, South Carolina.



Side Note:
Three states joined the Union during the Civil War. They were? (Next Slide)

Fact

In 1860, the South was the fourth richest economy in the world. Its slave property was worth three times the railroads and factories of the North combined.



Answers: Kansas, West Virginia, & Nevada

“The State of South Carolina at a Convention of the people of South Carolina... (prepared) An Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the Compact entitled ‘The United States of America.’”



Depending upon which side:
South Carolina – wanted orderly transfer of federal property to the state. View that North was forcibly seizing state assets. “Northern War of Aggression”
North – illegal secessions and moved to protect national interests. Protecting the union’s property. “Civil War”

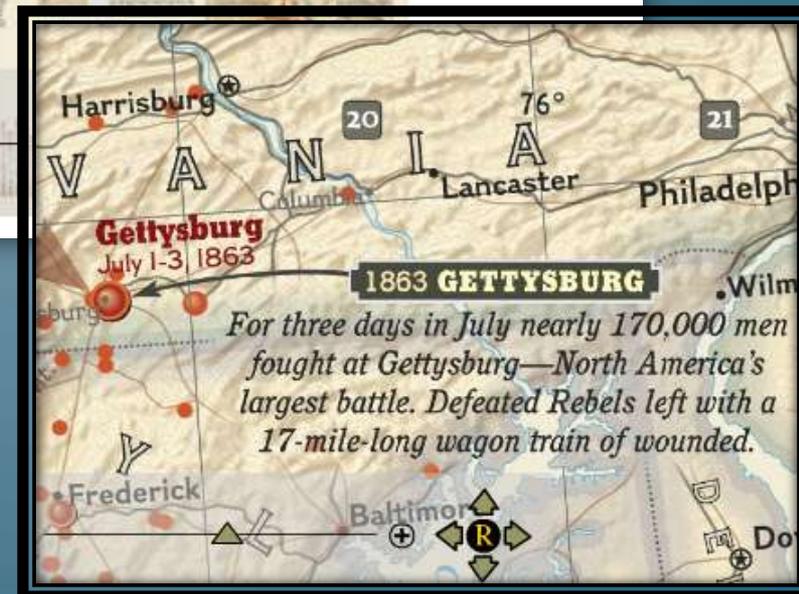
Four More States Join the Confederacy



Battles of the Civil War



Led into war over a way of life supported by human bondage, three million Americans engaged in four years of ferocious fighting against each other. Navigate your way around this map to retrace Civil War history and to look at the sites of its most heart-wrenching battles.



National Geographic's Interactive Map:
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2005/04/civil-war-battlefields/map-interactive>

BATTLE FACTS

CAMPAIGN

Gettysburg Campaign

BATTLES IN THIS CAMPAIGN

[Brandy Station](#)

[Aldie](#)

LOCATION

Adams County, Pennsylvania

[Google map »](#)

DATES

July 1 - 3, 1863

UNION COMMANDER

[George G. Meade](#)

CONFEDERATE COMMANDER

[Robert E. Lee](#)

FORCES ENGAGED

83,289 Union 

75,054 Confederate 

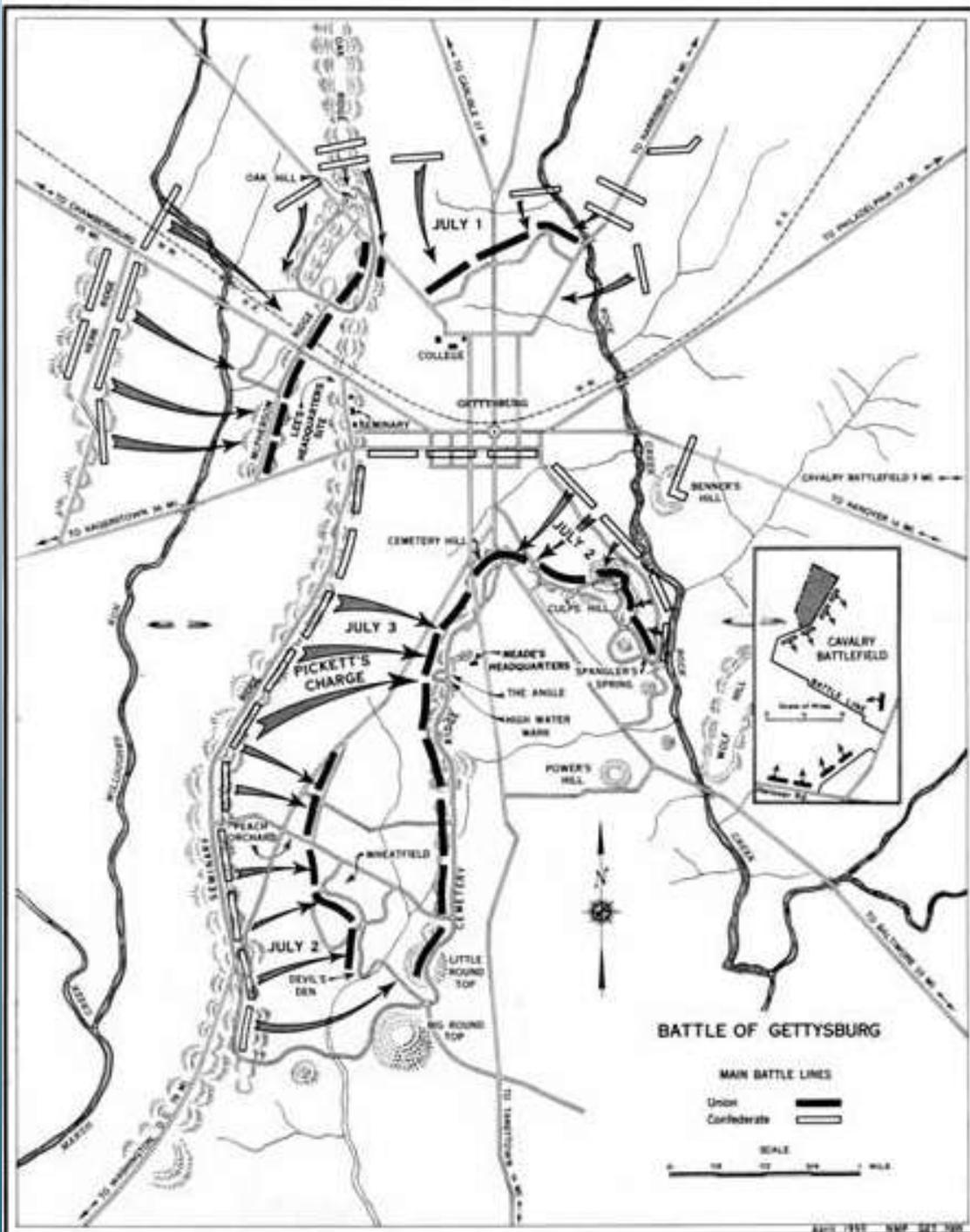
ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

23,000 Union 

28,000 Confederate 

RESULT

Union Victory 



Langdon Cheves Haskell (the oldest brother) was appointed, Jan. 28, 1862, lieutenant and aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Maxcy Gregg, one of the signers of South Carolina Secession. His commission was vacated by the death of Gregg, Dec. 15, 1862, but he remained on duty with the staff. He was appointed April 30, 1863, as lieutenant and aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Samuel McGowan and on Nov. 19, 1863, Haskell was commissioned as a captain and assistant adjutant general. On Dec. 5, 1864, he was relieved from duty with McGowan's brigade, and assigned to Major General Richard H. Anderson's staff where he served until the surrender at Appomattox Court House.

In the movement of the Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania in June 1863, four of the Haskells marched with their units. Aleck had not recovered from his wound, so he remained behind (or it would have been five Haskell brothers at Gettysburg).

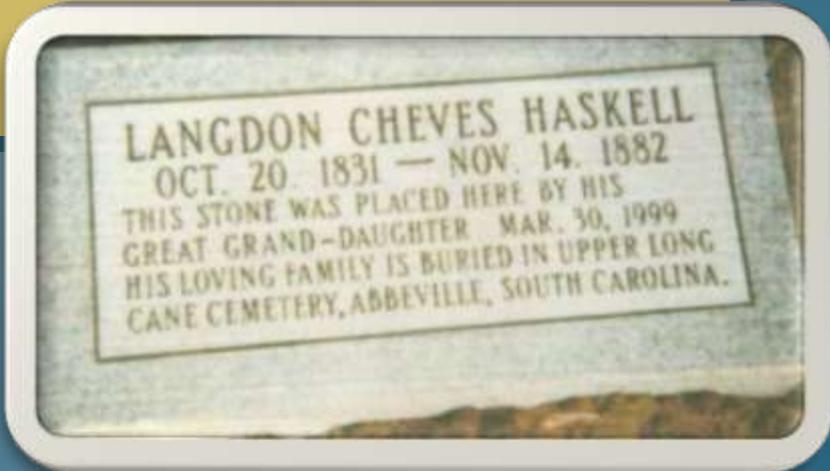
Langdon and Joseph were in their usual staff positions with McGowan, who had succeeded Gregg, and Alexander. John had just joined Longstreet's corps as an artilleryman, and William had a new assignment, command of a group of carefully selected marksmen to act as sharpshooters and skirmishers.

The full account is a little confusing, because McGowan was also wounded at Chancellorsville and the units were under the command of Perrin. They had gaps in their line caused by the barrage, but were spared the final assault. I have not found a clear cut account of Langdon's and Joseph's roles at Gettysburg with McGowan's unit. We know that after the war Langdon moved back to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, even though he had returned to South Carolina to serve.

That evening I went out to dinner and when I returned home there was a message on my answering machine from Margaret, in her very distinctive Arkansas accent, “Sara, are you sitting down. If not, you’d better “cause I found him buried in the old town Cemetery with a stone, weathered thin from time, still erect and with the Civil War plaque sitting on its top”

A friend in Atlanta knew people in Pine Bluff and offered to take me there. I met him at the airport in Atlanta. Margaret met us at the cemetery in Pine Bluff. We had a little ceremony of placing a yellow rose on his grave, just the three of us. Margaret helped me find a stonecutter (conveniently located just across the road) and I ordered a stone for the grave. The inscription reads, “This stone was placed here by his great-granddaughter. His loving family is buried in Long Cane Cemetery in Abbeville, South Carolina.” As my friend said, “Langdon Cheves Haskell can now rest in peace.”

This page is from Sara Cheves Fair’s account regarding “Family Does Matter” (search for family members).



LANGDON CHEVES HASKELL
OCT. 20. 1831 — NOV. 14. 1882
THIS STONE WAS PLACED HERE BY HIS
GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER MAR. 30, 1999
HIS LOVING FAMILY IS BURIED IN UPPER LONG
CANE CEMETERY, ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Gettysburg Battle Report: Perrin's Brigade

No. 557.--Report of Col.
Abner Perrin, Fourteenth
South Carolina Infantry,
commanding McGowan's
brigade.

HEADQUARTERS
MCGOWAN'S BRIGADE,

August 13, 1863.

The next day (July 2, 1863), having taken position in rear of some artillery as a support, we were exposed to and suffered a small loss from the enemy's shells. About 6 o'clock in the afternoon, I was ordered to push forward my skirmish line, and to drive in the enemy's pickets from a road in front of the Cemetery Hill. I communicated this order to Capt. William T. Haskell, in command of a select battalion of sharpshooters, acting as skirmishers, and sent Major McCreary forward with his regiment, about 100 strong, to deploy in rear of Captain Haskell, and to act as a support.

This battalion of sharpshooters, led by the gallant Haskell, made a most intrepid charge upon the Yankee skirmishers, driving them out of the road and close up under their batteries; but, soon after gaining the road, Captain Haskell received a wound from the enemy's sharpshooters, from which he died in a few moments on the field. This brave and worthy young officer fell while boldly walking along the front line of his command, encouraging his men and selecting favorable positions for them to defend. He was educated, and accomplished, possessing in a high degree every virtuous quality of the true gentleman and Christian. He was an officer of most excellent judgment, and a soldier of the coolest and most chivalrous daring.



Pictured on this page are William Thomson Haskell, his battle sword currently belonging to a Joseph Haskell descendent.

**When his brother died,
A.C. Haskell recalled:**

"Little did I think that death could again so crush my heart... the bonds between us brothers have become so close."



William Thomson
Captain C. M. I. Co.
S. V. Gregg's Brigade
A. N. V.
Entered the Service
of the State of So. Ca.
7th January 1861.
Fell in the front
of the Battlefield
of Gettysburgh
July, 1863.
Commanding

Battalion of
Sharpshooters

In his he was
a Soldier Christ

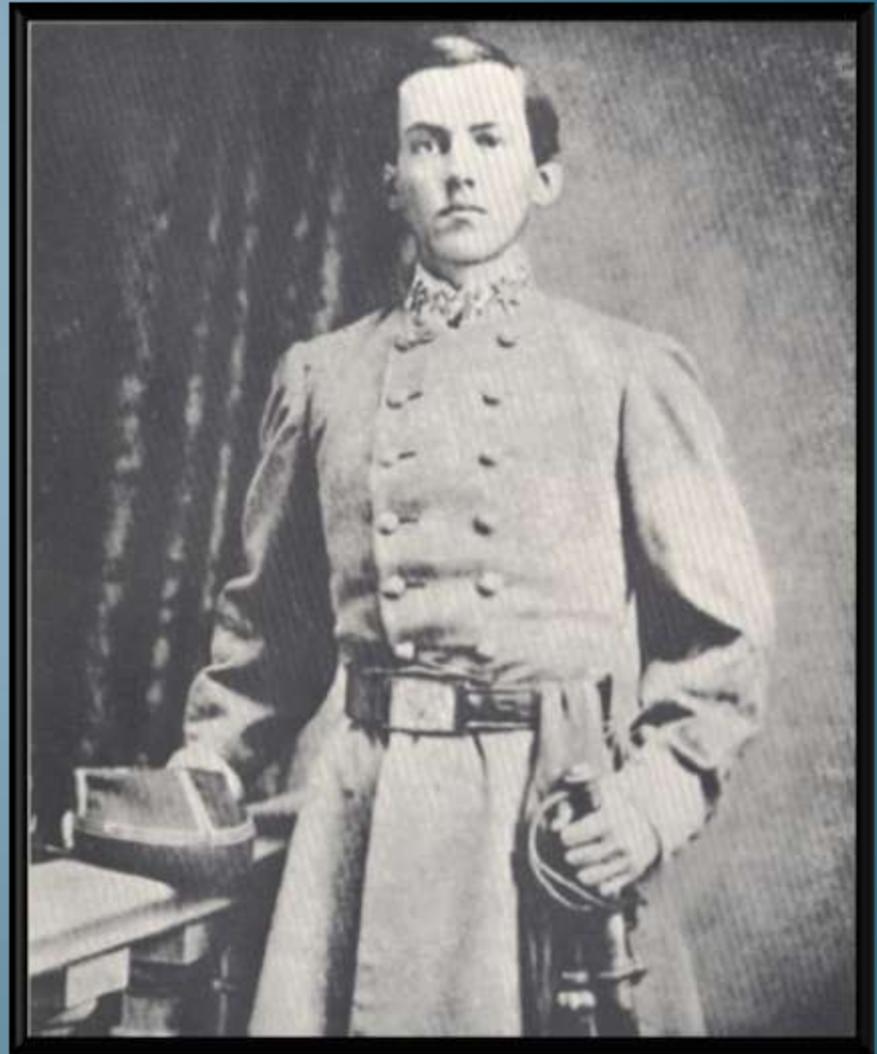
His Country he served
in the Battles
of Sumter, Vienna
Mechanicsville
Cold Harbour
Fagers Farm
Malvern Hill
and Manassas
Ox Hill
Harpers Ferry
Sharpsburgh
Shepard's Town
Fredericksburgh
Chancellorsville
and
Gettysburgh

Details from William Thomson
Haskell's Battle Sword

John Cheves Haskell,

The Haskell Memoirs: The Personal Narrative of a Confederate Officer

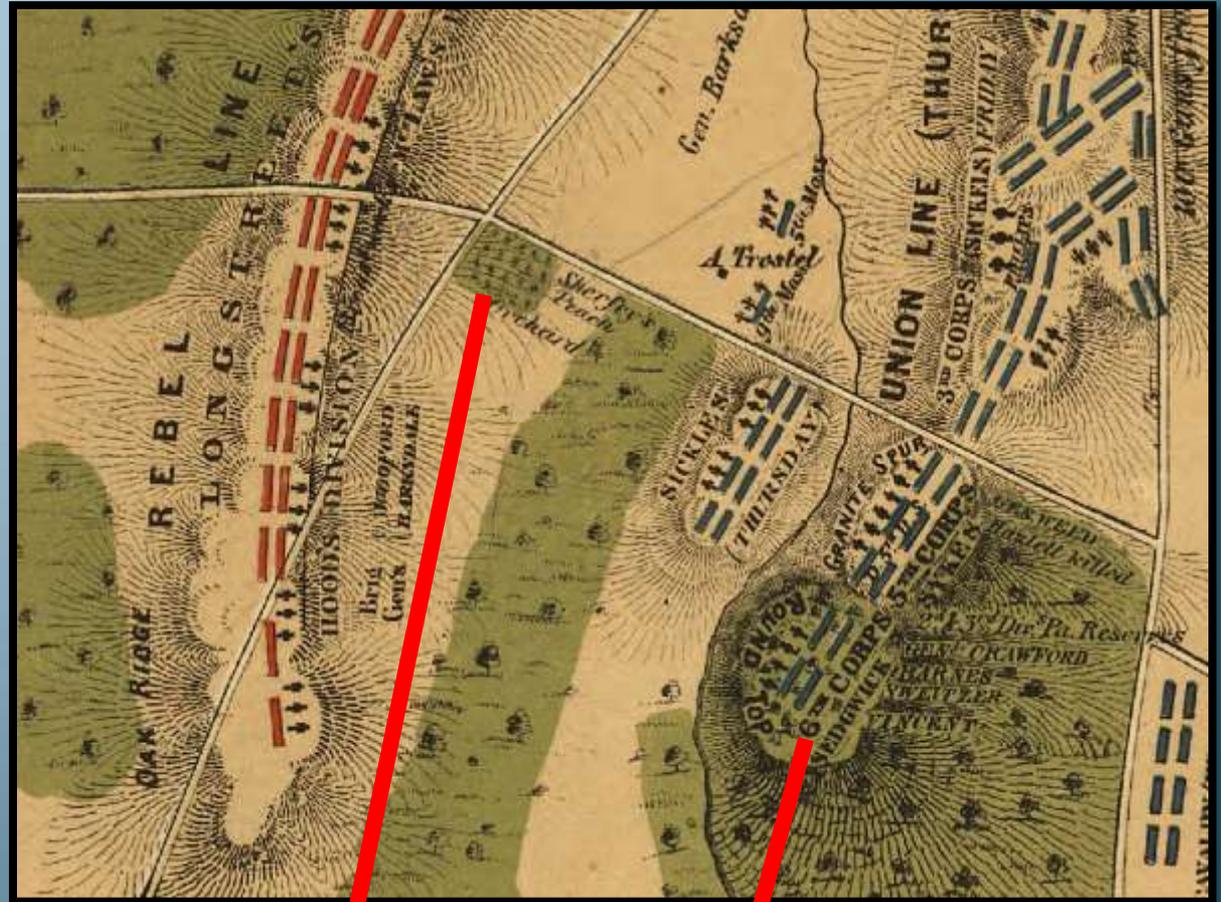
“I was ordered to take two batteries down the road, and was placed by Colonel E.P. Alexander, chief of artillery of Longstreet’s Corps, in the Peach Orchard, where we engaged the enemy’s batteries on Cemetery Heights. . . We opened fire and so commenced the great artillery duel which began what has been called the pivotal attack of the war. For several hours the guns never ceased their fire and many were killed or wounded. At last the enemy’s guns almost stopped firing, and we hoped – vainly as it turned out – that we had silenced them. “



Note: Wounded multiple times in battle, the most serious injury was loss of an arm.

John Cheves Haskell, "E.P. Alexander said he thought we had accomplished about all our guns could and besides, we were almost out of ammunition. Longstreet concluded there was nothing further to do and sent the order for Pickett to charge."

Haskell moved 5 guns to help protect the flank and came under heavy fire before running out of ammunition.



Peach Orchard

Round Top

John Cheves Haskell was very critical about opportunities lost at Gettysburg. E.g., the South did not secure Round Top which he had ridden over the day before, but when the North realized its strategic position moved quickly without opposition.

Perhaps the following quote is telling:

“The battle of Gettysburg will, no doubt, rank as the turning point of the war though perhaps it may better be called the breaking-point of the South’s resources. For months our men had been on rations such as no troops ever campaigned on and did a tithe of the work ours were called on to do. Corn meal and damaged bacon were the staples, often so damaged that to live on them insured disease. Medicines, chloroform especially, had got so scarce that small operations as painful as great ones were done without it.” (p. 54, The Haskell Memoirs)

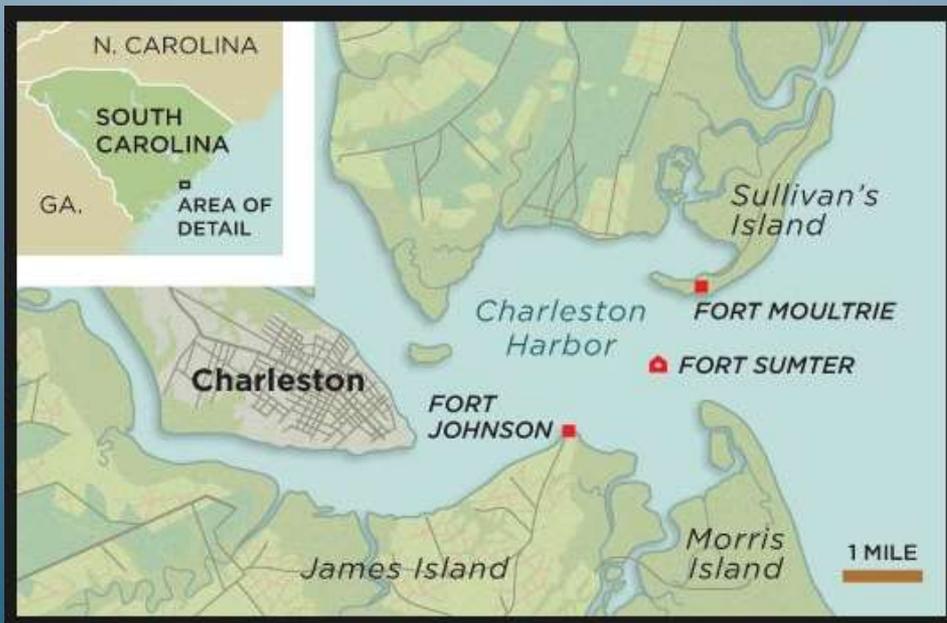
Joseph Cheves Haskell was the youngest brother at Gettysburg and just after the Gettysburg campaign was over, he left McGowan's unit and became Adjutant for Edward Porter Alexander (who would later be Alexander Cheves Haskell's brother in law). He received a very favorable review from E.P. Alexander, "I succeeded at last in getting as my adjutant my dear Joseph Haskell (sixth son of Charles Thomson Haskell)... Haskell was with me to the last day of the war, not only admired but loved by everybody on the staff and in the command. Nature has not got any more admirable type than that in which the whole family of the six Haskell brothers in the war was stamped (later increased to seven brothers).



Joseph Cheves Haskell

To this point we left out Charles Thomson Haskell's second son who served in the Civil War, also Charles Thomson Haskell. That's because he was not at Gettysburg, but his story is tied to that of his brother William Thomson Haskell.

Charles Thomson Haskell's mother's brother was Captain Langdon Cheves. From Langdon's own wealth, he procured arms and equipment for the strengthening and defense of the coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia. Further, he employed his engineering background to design and supervise the construction of the "Gazelle", a hot-air balloon for observation. Constructed of imported silk, the Gazelle was relocated to Richmond, Virginia and subsequently was used throughout the June, 1862 Battle of Seven Pines for the purposes of the Confederate military.



Langdon Cheves was solicited to oversee the choosing of the location, the engineering and construction of Battery Wagner. The garrison would become paramount in the defense of Charleston. On July 10, 1863, he was "sitting in his quarters overwhelmed with grief at the tidings just brought to him of the death of his nephew, Captain Charles T. Haskell, Jr." Upon hearing the communication of an imminent attack by Union Naval forces, "he roused himself to action" and was killed instantly on the ramparts of Battery Wagner from the first shell hurled from an attacking Union Monitor. Ironically the defenses he had designed became the place of his death and produced sad news indeed.

Portions from Findagrave.com:
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=10652930>



Langdon Cheves

4. Sacred to the memory of

Charles Thomson Haskell, CAPT CO D 1st Regt SC Regulars CSA

Who fell in the defense of Charleston Harbour, July 10, 1863

Born March 28, 1835 and of his brother,

William Thomson Haskell, CAPT CO H 1st Regt SC V Greggs Brigade A, N. Va.

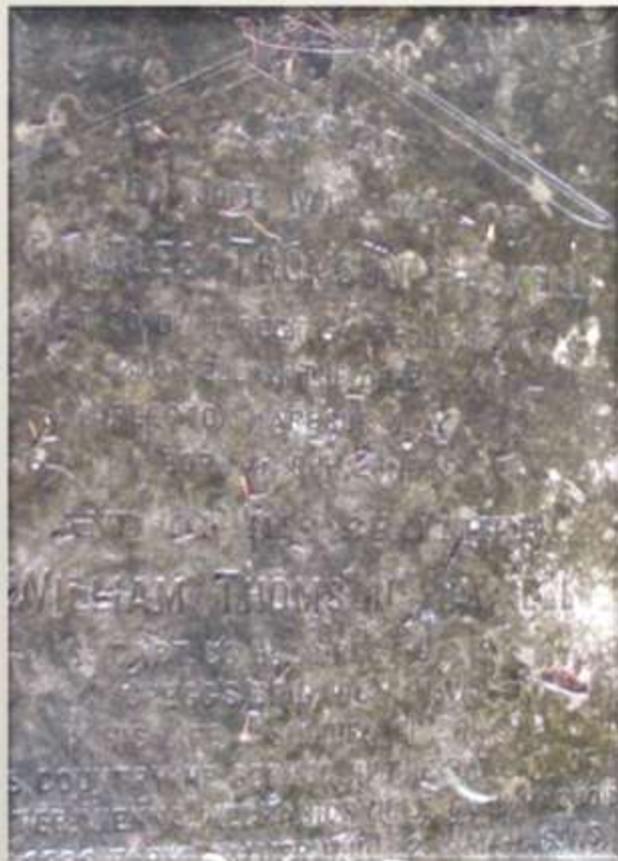
In his life a soldier of Christ. His country be served in the battles of Sumter,

Vienna, Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor, Frasers Farm, Malvern Hill, 2nd Manassas, Ox Hill,

Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville, and fell in the front on the battlefield of Gettysburg,

July 2nd, 1863, commanding battalion of skirmishers.

Born Dec. 11, 1837



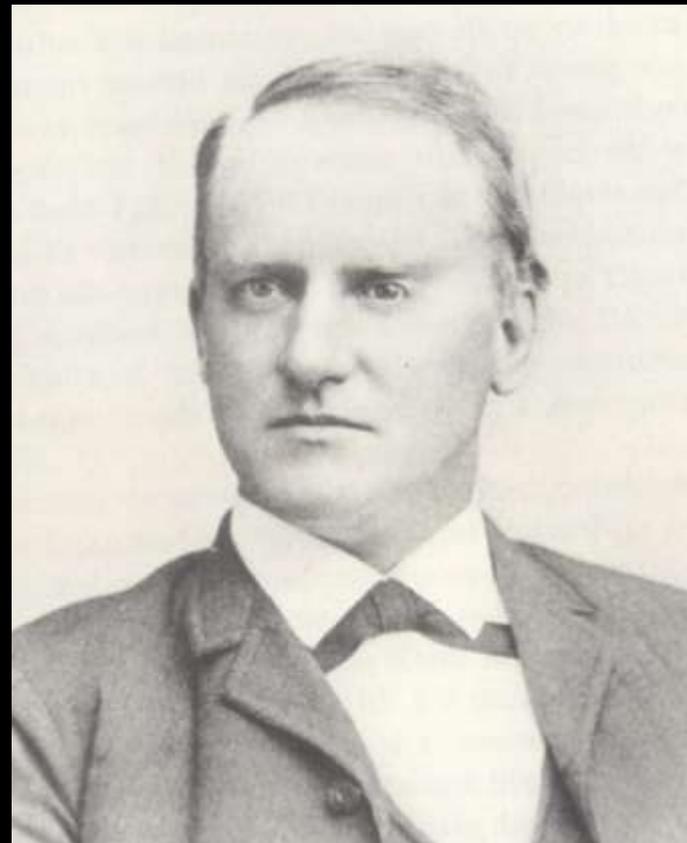
The final part of the story regarding Charles Thomson Haskell, Langdon Cheves, and William Thomson Haskell is that Sophia Haskell received news of their deaths all on the same day when she rode to the Post Office and had the news that two of her sons and her brother had paid war's ultimate price.



[1861]

Alexander Cheves Haskell
Alexander was slated to go to Gettysburg but did not go due to his second wound in the war. His first wound was at Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, when he was hit in the shoulder; his second wound was on May 2, 1863, at Chancellorsville when he was shot in the ankle. As he left the line he spoke for the last time with his brother William. Upon recovery Alexander was promoted to lieutenant colonel and led a new cavalry unit April 20, 1864.

Alexander was promoted to Colonel and saw action at Drewry's Bluff, May 16, 1864, which protected Richmond. His third wound came on May 30, 1864 when Alex and Queen (his horse) were hit with seven rifle balls. By August he was back with his regiment. His last and most serious wound was on the Darbytown Road east of Richmond, October 7, 1864. Left for dead he made a remarkable recovery, and was again with his regiment by the end of January, 1865. He claimed the 8 days after his wound were "like a dream—moving, fighting, starving."



From the Appendix, John Haskell, The Haskell Memoirs

Before Aleck left home for Virginia, the seventh of the brothers, Lewis, enlisted, and the veteran of the Army of Northern Virginia helped the young recruit, who was nearing his eighteenth birthday, plan his journey to Virginia. "Lewis, like his brothers before him, is a soldier before he enters the field," Alexander wrote home, "I am sure of his success and his usefulness."

But Lewis reached Virginia only in time to view the rapid disintegration of the Confederacy, a process John describes so vividly in his memoirs. At Appomattox Aleck was designated by General Lee to lead the cavalry, as John was the artillery, to the place where they turned their equipment over to the Federals.

Then the two ranking Haskells moved on to meet their brothers, Langdon, Joseph, and Lewis, and – their full obligation accomplished – the five turned their horses on the path to Abbeville and the quiet peace of "The Home Place." William and Charles were with so many of their comrades in eternal rest.

My Great Grandfather's Speech to Public School Children c. 1896

"I know you would all be soldiers, but I want you to be good citizens. The latter is not so arduous as the first, but it is really more difficult... If all citizens of every country did their duty war could not occur. To keep the peace without sacrifice of principle is more noble than military achievement. War is a calamity; an evil to correct a greater evil. It is sure to leave in its trail evils from which to recover takes time and effort. Hence the special importance now of good citizenship. Every citizen should feel that the fate of his country turns upon his conduct..."

Alexander Cheves Haskell

Civil War History Sites

- **New York Times Timeline:**

- <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/10/29/opinion/20101029-civil-war.html>

- **Smithsonian Timeline:**

- <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Civil-War-History.html>

- **National Park Service:**

- <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/civwar150.html>

- <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/abcivwarTimeline.htm>

- <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/bycampgn.htm>
(lists battles by year)

E.g., Main Eastern Theater 1863 for Gettysburg

- ***Civil War Trust:***

- <http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/>

“This day in History” Feature

Home site for Civil War Battlefield Preservation:

- <http://www.civilwar.org/>

- Search Battlefields by States:

- <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/>

- Find maps of the Battlefields:

- <http://www.civilwar.org/maps/>

- Find Civil War Photos (including lots of links):

- <http://www.civilwar.org/photos/>

Most of these are at the Haskell Family Association Site: <http://haskellfamily.org/>

Gettysburg Links

PDF Downloads and other interesting items:

<http://www.virtualgettysburg.com/support/education/poster/>

Gettysburg National Parks Service Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm>

Current Day Visitor's Guide:

<http://www.gettysburg.travel/visitor/guide.asp>

Undoubtedly there will be a Haskell Family Archive of this reunion including the items passed out tonight:

<http://hfa.haskells.net/index.php> (home page)

<http://hfa.haskells.net/Reunions-10.php> (reunion page)

Books Used

Daly, Louise Haskell. Alexander Cheves Haskell: The Portrait of a Man originally printed by Plimpton Press, Norwood, Massachusetts, 1934 (reprint version Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, North Carolina, 1989)

Haskell, John Cheves. The Haskell Memoirs: The Personal Narrative of a Confederate Officer Edited by: Gilbert E. Govan & James W. Livingood. G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, NY, 1960.

Both books may have online versions now.

Addendum - Pictures from Gettysburg

June 18, 2011



South Carolina Memorial - West Confederate Avenue



THAT MEN OF HONOR MIGHT FOREVER KNOW
THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FREEDOM.
DEDICATED SOUTH CAROLINIANS STOOD
AND WERE COUNTED FOR THEIR HERITAGE
AND CONVICTIONS. ABIDING FAITH IN THE
SACREDNESS OF STATES RIGHTS PROVIDED
THEIR CREED. HERE, MANY EARNED
ETERNAL GLORY

THIRD ARMY CORPS

LIEUT. GEN. A. P. HILL
PENDER'S DIVISION
FIRST BRIGADE

1ST (GREGG'S) SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
1ST SOUTH CAROLINA RIFLES
12TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
13TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
14TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
ARTILLERY RESERVE
PEGRAM'S BATTALION
PEE DEE ARTILLERY

CAVALRY

STUART'S DIVISION
MAJ. GEN. J. E. B. STUART
HAMPTON'S BRIGADE
BRIG. GEN. WADE HAMPTON
1ST SOUTH CAROLINA CAVALRY
2ND SOUTH CAROLINA CAVALRY
STUART HORSE ARTILLERY
HART'S BATTERY

South Carolina
monument details

FIRST ARMY CORPS

LIEUT. GEN. JAMES LONGSTREET

McLAWS DIVISION
KERSHAW'S BRIGADE

BRIG. GEN. J. B. KERSHAW

2ND SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
3RD SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
7TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
8TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
15TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY
3RD SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY BATTALION

HOOD'S DIVISION
ARTILLERY

GERMAN ARTILLERY
PALMETTO LIGHT ARTILLERY
ARTILLERY RESERVE
ALEXANDER'S BATTALION
BROOKS ARTILLERY



Two Locations visited
by John Cheves
Haskell

Peach Orchard



View from
Little
Round Top