

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thomas Livingston Whitefield.....	Cover
Hanging Lincoln Envelope.....	Cover
Introduction.....	1
Letter from Thomas to Esperann.....	2
Letter from Thomas to Esperann.....	4
Letter from Thomas to Esperann.....	5
Letter from Esperann to Capt. Burch.....	7
Letter from Capt. Burch to Esperann.....	7
Letter from Church Cemetery to Esperann.....	8
Letter from W.L. Lawrence to Esperann.....	9
Letter from J.S. Bradsher to Esperann.....	10
Letter to Esperann from W.G. Whitefield.....	12
Note from William Whitefield Collection.....	14
Hanging Lincoln Envelope.....	15
Estate Inventory of T. L. Whitefield.....	16
Descendents of William Whitfield.....	17
Children of Martha O'Briant and Alias Harris.....	19
Tombstone of Thomas Livingston Whitefield.....	20
Thomas' Muster Roll Card.....	21
Parham O'Briant's "killed in action" Card.....	22

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Nov. 2011

Thomas Livingston Whitefield

Alexander and Emily Mary O'Briant were the parents of Martha Elizabeth O'Briant who married Alias Jasper Harris. Emily's brother, Thomas Livingston Whitefield, fought in the Civil War but was not as fortunate as Alexander who survived. In May of 1862, Thomas volunteered along many close relatives and hundreds of other Person County men and became part of Company A., N.C. 50th Infantry Regiment, CSA. They trained in Raleigh at Camp Mangum, now the site of Meredith College. Just a month later the 50th was fighting in The Seven Day's Battle around Richmond, Virginia. "The Yanks....threw shells on us like pouring peas on a cowhide" wrote his brother-in-law, Alexander O'Briant, of the fighting at White Oak Swamp. Back home in the Bushy Fork division of the county, Thomas' wife, Esperann, was raising three small children and working the plantation with the help of family, friends and seven slaves. They exchanged letters as often as possible. Thomas died in Petersburg, Va. in February of 1863 and the family eventually brought his body home for burial in Person County. Esperann positively identified Thomas' body by a crooked toe and a gold tooth. Some of the letters after his death deal with this part of his story. After three long years, Alexander O'Briant returned to his farm and family in Person County.

Some notes:

Thomas was the great, great uncle of Fred Lee Hunt, Jr. and his sister, Martha.

Around 1860, some of the Whitefields changed the spelling of their name to Whitfield.

The original letters are in the N.C. Archives in the *William Whitefield Family Papers*.

There are also letters in Archives from Esperann to her boys in school at Hughes Academy.

Our great grandfather, John Dolphin Harris, was also in the N.C 50th, Co. A

Fred Hunt's great uncle on his dad's side, Alfred Hunt, died in July of 1862 near Richmond.

Gloria Hunt, wife of Fred Hunt, Jr., had a great grandfather in the N.C. 50th, Co.A.... William Rufus Clayton who survived the war as did J.D. Harris, A.O'Briant, and W.G. Whitefield.

James W. O'Briant was mortally wounded at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1863.

Thomas Whitfield's brother, William Gaston Whitfield, moved to Tenn. several years before the War.

He fought with the Alabama 35th and saw lots of action, including the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg.

Thomas L. Whitefield is buried in the Whitfield Cemetery in Person County.

Fred has 60 pages of Civil War letters between Alexander O'Briant and Emily Mary.

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My wife, Gloria, helped me with all of this.

Letter Number One

2

November 11, 1862 From Point of Rocks, Chesterfield Co. to Bushy Fork
Letter from Thomas Livingston Whitefield to his wife, Esperann Russell Whitefield.

Dear Wife, I

take this opportunity of answering yours of the 1 ins. I received it and one from papa last Saturday the 8 and was glad to hear that you got home safe but sorry to hear of so many deaths and that Dr. Mansfield had not got that money exchanged. Also I was upset to think that Murphy was being so trifling...tel him that I say if he will not work that I am under no obligation to him and that is not all he must leave---you must pay off as far as your money will go and if you get hat from Dr. Mansfield I want you to pay sis Jinnie off and take up the bond if she refuses to receive it tel her that you must have the bond and she can do as she pleases about taking the money. We have had some very cold weather since you left we had a snow storm last Friday the wind blew all the day very hard the snow was over shoe mouth deep. I have been suffering with a pain in my right breast.

Enclosed you will find my last request
you will please put it away with
my valuable papers and say nothing
about it if you are dissatisfied
with it. Let me know what in particular.
Write to me soon and let me know
how much your trip cost you and
know how my folks are getting along sewing
wheat and gathering corn. Also how
many hogs you have up fatning.
Write whether you can make any jeans
cloth or not. I have no news to write
more than that this post is consigned over
to our major and we are putting
up our winter quarters here. We expect
to stay here until the 1 of April. I
I learn that some of the Troops have
past on going to N. Carolina to spend
the winter. Tel the children howdy
for me nothing more at present.
I remain your devoted husband
until death. Farewell
to Esperann Whitefield Thomas L. Whitfield

Letter Number Two

4

Dec. 22, 1862 The letter itself has 1863.

Letter from Thomas Livingston Whitefield to his wife, Esperann Russell Whitefield. Sent from Petersburg, Va. to Bushy Fork, Person County, N.C.

Petersburg, Virginia Dec. 22, 1863

My Dear Wife

Received you letter on the 17th of the above instant which gave me the greatest comfort to find that you all were improving. Dear wife I am sorry to inform you that my health has been very much impaired these last two weeks but thanks to God I feel much better at present to what I have been. As regards my bowels they are checked in a measure at present but don't know how long they will remain so. Dear Wife the prospects of my health to improve is very favorable at present & I hope with the help of God soon to be able to get out of bed if I was once able to knock about a little so that I would be able to walk. There is not the least doubt but that I would get a furlow to go home. I hope & trust Dear wife that I will soon be able to see you.

dear Wife I have know more to say at present---only remain your Affectionate Husband Thomas L. Whitefield Untill death

Letter Number Three

5

Feb. 6, 1863

Letter from Thomas Livingston Whitefield to his wife Esperann Whitefield. The letter was written from the N.C. Hospital in Petersburg, Virginia.

Petersburg, Va. *The First North Carolina Hospital*

Feb. 6th 1863

Dear Wife

*I seat myself to
Write you a few lines to inform
you how I am. I am very low & sinking
very fast. I can't stay here long
with out a Change & I want
Father and Lon to come & see me as
soon as he can if he can't
come try to get some friend
to come & see me. I want to
see you very bad & my dear little
ones but if is not Gods
will we must submit to his will.
I am willing to die if it is his
will to take me from you.
He knows what is best for us.
We do not know & I give you
& my little ones up to God who
gave them to me. You must trust
in him he will do all things right
trust him. I must close now I have*

not received any answer from my letter
that I wrote two weeks ago. write
soon as you can may God bless you all
& save you in heaven is the

Your affectionate husband

Thomas L Whitefield

Note to Esperann Whitefield from Captain James Burch concerning
Certificate of Service for Thomas Livingston Whitefield in the Civil War.

7

Certificate of Service of Soldier

I certify that Private
Thos L Whitfield a soldier of
company A fiftith Reg't. N C Troops
enlisted on the first day of May
1862 and that he died in the service
on the 7th of Feb. 1863 and that
he had in hand at the time of
his death in first North Carolina
hospital Petersburg, Virginia the
sum of nine dollars and sixty cents
turned over to Capt.

Geo C. Reia xxxxxxxxx 2 w
given on the
12th Feb 1864

Jas A. Burch
Capt. Co. A 50th Reg. N.C.

Wilmington, NC
Feb. 18, 1864

Mrs. Whitefield

Madam

Think not that I have acted
slow about the written certificate
it has just reached me

Yours most obediently

Jas A. Burch
Capt Co. A 50th Regt N C

March 14, 1863

8

Letter from Old Blandford Church Cemetery representative to Esperann Whitefield concerning the body of her husband, Thomas Livingston Whitefield.

Petersburg March 14th 1863

Mrs Whitfield,

Madam

Your communic

ation of the 10th is to hand and I proceed at once to answer it. I do not know anything about your husband or his effects. other than I buried him from the first N C Hospital. I never saw him when living. The gentleman Mr. Phelps who you speak of in your letter called on me to take him up to carie him home. I told him what it would cost he said he had not the money to take him up and carrie him and requested me to write the note which I wrote to you in regards to moving him. I did not tell Mr. Phelps any thing about you husband for I know nothing about him. If you will write to Dr. W I Lawrence Steward of the first N C Hospital he will give you all the information you desire in regards to his money & cloths. If you wish him taken up I will attend to it for you if you will send some one to take charge of his body.

Yours Respectfully

unintelligible name

No. 19 BollingBrook

April 26, 1863

9

Letter to Esperann Whitfield from W. L. Lawrence concerning the death of Thomas Livingston Whitefield.

Petersburg, Va. April 26, 1863

Mrs Whitefield

I received your letter a few days ago making some inquireries in regard to your husband and his effects. Mr Whitefield died of chronic diarrhea He never had the Small Pox or any thing like it. His request was if any of his friends came before he was buried to be carried home and buried, but if he was buried here he did not wish to be moved. He left \$9.60 in money and some clothing. The money I have on hand but the clothing was burned up with the Hospital on the night of the 12th April. By making application in Person or by Attorney you can get the money.

Yours respectfully

W. L. Lawrence

January 25, 1867 Baltimore, Maryland

10

Letter from J. S. Bradsher telling Esperann Whitefield details about how Thomas Livingston Whitefield's body might be moved from Petersburg to Person County.

Baltimore, Md.

Jan. 25

Dear Cousin

I came on by
Petersburg & succeeded
in finding out the remains of
Cousin Tomas. They
can be found by going
to W. Davidson
keeper of Bradford
Cemetery.

He is certain that
is yours although xxxxx
xxxx xx bound xxxxx.
It will cost you at least
80 dollars to get him
home. I will enclose
a card so the gentleman
you get can go
to for information he
will furnish the coffin
and have him taken
up and delivered
to the depot for \$42.
You can have him taken

up without anyone's
going after him by
sending the money
to X X Morris it all
cost about \$160 to have
the remains delivered
at Hillsboro N C.
nothing more

Yours

J S Bradsher

December 17, 1866

12

Letter to Esperann Whitefield from her brother-in-law, William Gaston Whitefield, concerning moving Thomas Livingston Whitefield's body from Petersburg to Person County. William was living in New Providence, Tennessee; shortly he moved to Paducah, Ky.

New Providence Tenn Dec 17th 1866

Dear Sister for some time

I have been thinking about writing to you in regards to Brothers remains. Brother LeGrand & myself have decided to have them brought home if they have not been. We want you to get some one to go who will attend to it. We will bear the expenses. Please have it attended to as soon as you can & send amt of expenses to me. If money is as scarce there now as it was when I left, let me know immediately & I will send you the amt required.

I am clerking for Mr. H. P. Riggins got \$600 & board for this year, will get \$800 & board for next year. I am working close & think a few years of health & luck will make me about easy in the way of his World goods. I thought once that I would never try to make money--but the current was so strong it has carried me off & I have now decided to "make the money."

We are well except bro Monroe. He fired a gun which shocked his right side & gave him some pain for several days. He is up & about. Sister Martha & family well last account. Upon the whole I expect we are getting along better in this section than almost any other. We have "peace and plenty." I wish Person County was here. I

would be perfectly happy. I expect you are getting along very well from the tenor of the letters that I rec'd lately. Jennie (?) letters of late date was more encouraging than I expected

13

My love to all especially my bros & Sisters.

Write to me soon. A letter from N C is a source of great pleasure to me.

Keep the boys going to school every chance for it is the best thing you can do for them.

Tell them I say they must be good boys & mind their mother. I wish I could see them.

Your brother-in-law
W. G. Whitefield



William Gaston Whitefield/Whitfield

When using Google, try "W G Whitfield" "35th Alabama" for more stories.

L. M. Whitefield returned from Tennessee 14
June 8th 1867 with the remains of
Thomas L. Whitefield which was brought from
Petersburg, V. A.

This note can be found in the N.C. Archives in the William Whitefield collection.

The Hanging Lincoln design is widely recognized as the most distinctive of all Confederate patriotic. In this extraordinary cartoon, President Lincoln is hanging upside down from a tree limb, with his symbolic axe and fence rail tied around his neck. The caption reads "Abe Lincoln the destroyer. He once split Rails. Now he has split the Union." To the left and right is the caption "The penalty of disregarding the constitution. Impeached, deposed, Tried and convicted" (there is a spelling correction from "diposed" to "deposed"). Standing beside Lincoln is a mustachioed Winfield Scott, labeled "Old Fuss n Feathers", dropping his sword and exclaiming "My glory is gone for ever." On the ground is the Union flag, captioned "The stars and stripes lie in the dust, Never to rise." A star at left has the caption "The southern star is rising" and the Confederate 11-star flag towers above with the caption "The stars and bars shall for ever wave triumphant." Along the bottom is the imprint "Copyright claimed. HM & WC Box 417 Nashville Tenn."



An Inventory of the personal property of
Thomas L. Whitefield Dec'd

16

One bond on Satterwhite and Barnett for
Seventy nine dollars and twenty five cents due 24th
day of December 1860 Subject to a credit of five
dollars March 1862
Seven negro Slaves (namely) Ann, Elizabeth,
Joe, Ingram, Margaret, William & Lucy
Mules and horses four, hogs thirty. Sheep fourteen,
cows, nine household furniture four beds
and bedsteads and furniture one bureau one
folding leaf table, one dressing table three chest
two clocks eleven chairs two looking glasses
Kitchen furniture three tables, one loom, one cupboard
three ovens, four pots, one skillet, one kettle one
pail two tubs, plantation tools, three Dagon plows
three shovel plows, one cotton plow, five hoes, one mattock
one pick and shovel two Iron wedges two waggons and
three pair of gear one carriage and harness and one cross
cut saw and grind stone two spinning wheels and cards
cutting knives

Sept 22nd 1863

Burnal Russell Executor

Burnal Russell was Thomas' father-in-law.

A Dagon plough is used to "side" crops.

Gear is horse harness.

Generation No. 1

1. WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD (*JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*)¹ was born December 04, 1798 in Roxboro¹, and died September 18, 1857 in Roxboro¹. He married (1) ROZILLA MOORE¹ September 12, 1822, daughter of JOHN MOORE and MARTHA HARGIS. She was born February 25, 1806 in Roxboro¹, and died September 25, 1841 in Roxboro¹. He married (2) SOPHIA D. BRIGGS July 30, 1842 in Person County, North Carolina. She died April 29, 1859.

Children of WILLIAM WHITEFIELD and ROZILLA MOORE are:

- i. EDWIN⁴ WHITFIELD, b. July 24, 1819.
- ii. ALBERT MARION WHITFIELD, b. August 04, 1823.
- iii. LEGRAND STANLEY WHITFIELD, b. November 24, 1824.
- iv. LOELLEN MONROE WHITFIELD, b. August 22, 1826.
2. v. THOMAS LIVINGSTON WHITFIELD, b. July 20, 1828.
3. vi. EMILY MARY WHITFIELD, b. February 16, 1831; d. January 18, 1881.
- vii. MARTHA CORNELIA WHITFIELD, b. December 20, 1833.
- viii. ELIZABETH JANE WHITFIELD, b. November 24, 1836.
- ix. WILLIAM GASTON WHITFIELD, b. September 17, 1838.

Children of WILLIAM WHITEFIELD and SOPHIA BRIGGS are:

- x. FRANCIS JUSTINE⁴ WHITEFIELD, b. October 16, 1843.
- xi. GEORGE IRA PRESTON WHITEFIELD, b. June 11, 1846.
- xii. MALCOM EGBERT WHITEFIELD, b. June 26, 1849.
- xiii. CAROLINE ALICE WHITEFIELD, b. August 23, 1852.

Generation No. 2

2. THOMAS LIVINGSTON⁴ WHITFIELD (*WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD, JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*) was born July 20, 1828. He married ESPERANN RUSSELL. She was born 1838, and died 1917.

Children of THOMAS WHITFIELD and ESPERANN RUSSELL are:

4. i. CHARLES ASBURY⁵ WHITFIELD, b. April 10, 1859; d. May 29, 1931.
- ii. ELLIOTT RUSSELL WHITFIELD.
- iii. WELDON JASPER WHITFIELD.

3. EMILY MARY⁴ WHITFIELD (*WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD, JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*)¹ was born February 16, 1831¹, and died January 18, 1881¹. She married ALEXANDER O'BRIANT¹ September 24, 1846, son of ELIJAH O'BRIANT and ATHENA CANNADY. He was born April 29, 1828 in Person County, North Carolina¹, and died October 27, 1898 in Person County, North Carolina¹.

Children of EMILY WHITFIELD and ALEXANDER O'BRIANT are:

- i. ROZILLA MOORE⁵ O'BRIANT, b. July 21, 1847; m. LEWIS STEPHEN MORTON.
- ii. LEGRANDE C. O'BRIANT, b. November 15, 1848; m. (1) ALMIRA CRYTS; m. (2) ABBY.
5. iii. ELMIRA MARGARET O'BRIANT, b. November 05, 1850.
- iv. CORNELIA JANE O'BRIANT, b. April 17, 1852; m. JOHN E. WHITFIELD.
- v. ERASMUS L. O'BRIANT, b. December 14, 1854.

6. vi. ALBERT W. O'BRIANT, b. October 20, 1857.
- vii. JULIA ANN N. O'BRIANT, b. Abt. 1858.
- viii. JUSTINA MALLINA O'BRIANT, b. February 18, 1859; m. WAYNE RUFFIN BLALOCK.
- ix. LULA MARY O'BRIANT, b. May 24, 1861; m. WILLIAM FRANKLIN SNIPES.
- x. WILLIAM ALEXANDER O'BRIANT, b. September 15, 1864; m. IDA SUE ROGERS.
- xi. VIRGINIA FREDDIE O'BRIANT, b. August 10, 1866.
- xii. FRANCES EMILY O'BRIANT, b. November 01, 1868; m. GEORGE F. SNIPES.
7. xiii. MARTHA ELIZABETH "BESSIE" O'BRIANT, b. November 20, 1872, Person County; d. February 20, 1913, Person County.
- xiv. VIOLA LEE O'BRIANT, b. August 13, 1875; m. ARTHUR J. WHITEFIELD.
- xv. MINERVA O'BRIANT, b. Unknown; m. BROOKS.

Generation No. 3

4. CHARLES ASBURY⁵ WHITFIELD (*THOMAS LIVINGSTON⁴, WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD, JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*) was born April 10, 1859, and died May 29, 1931. He married FANNIE CAROLINE BROACH, daughter of NATHANIEL BROACH and MALENIA MARSHALL. She was born 1862, and died 1933.

Children of CHARLES WHITFIELD and FANNIE BROACH are:

- i. NATHANIEL WISE⁶ WHITFIELD, b. November 13, 1897; d. January 12, 1931; m. OPHELIA TATUM, October 05, 1919.
- ii. BERTHA ADA WHITFIELD, b. 1882.
- iii. CALLIE EULIA WHITFIELD, b. 1885.
- iv. WESLEY WELDON WHITFIELD, b. 1887.
- v. LEMUEL ASBURY WHITFIELD, b. 1891.
- vi. MIDA OLA WHITFIELD, b. 1895.
- vii. CHARLES DEWEY WHITFIELD, b. 1899.
- viii. KENNETH ARCHIBALD WHITFIELD.

5. ELMIRA MARGARET⁵ O'BRIANT (*EMILY MARY⁴ WHITFIELD, WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD, JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*)¹ was born November 05, 1850¹. She married MARCELLUS BROOKS¹.

Child of ELMIRA O'BRIANT and MARCELLUS BROOKS is:

- i. CORINNA⁶ BROOKS¹, b. July 16, 1886, Person County¹; d. January 06, 1951, Person County¹; m. ALIAS JASPER HARRIS¹, July 15, 1914; b. January 09, 1870, Person County¹; d. April 06, 1951, Person County¹.

6. ALBERT W.⁵ O'BRIANT (*EMILY MARY⁴ WHITFIELD, WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD, JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*) was born October 20, 1857. He married LUCY T. CLAYTON.

Children of ALBERT O'BRIANT and LUCY T. CLAYTON are:

- i. THOMAS LESTER⁶ O'BRIANT, b. September 07, 1891; d. October 08, 1967; m. LELA; b. January 29, 1894; d. April 11, 1986.
- ii. ALBERT LESTER O'BRIANT, b. May 1892.
- iii. WASHINGTON IRVING O'BRIANT, b. February 16, 1901; d. July 01, 1986.

7. MARTHA ELIZABETH "BESSIE"⁵ O'BRIANT (*EMILY MARY⁴ WHITFIELD, WILLIAM³ WHITEFIELD, JAMES TOWLER², WILLIAM¹*)¹ was born November 20, 1872 in Person County¹, and died February 20, 1913 in Person County¹. She married ALIAS JASPER HARRIS¹ November 19, 1893, son of JOHN HARRIS and ELAINE BROOKS. He was born January 09, 1870 in Person County¹, and died April 06, 1951 in Person County¹.

- i. FLORENCE CORNELIA⁶ HARRIS¹, b. September 05, 1894¹; d. October 25, 1963¹; m. WILLIAM ALEXANDER WRENN¹; . May 28, 1891, Person County¹; d. September 30, 1965, Person County¹.
- ii. HULDAH B. HARRIS¹, b. August 21, 1896¹; d. July 05, 1961¹; m. JOE YOUNGER BLANKS¹; d. June 17, 1963¹.
- iii. DEE WHITT HARRIS¹, b. October 16, 1898¹; d. June 08, 1899¹.
- iv. LILLIAN LEE HARRIS¹, b. April 05, 1900¹; d. July 23, 1967¹; m. JOHN IRVING BROOKS¹, April 23, 1921; b. May 26, 1896¹; d. November 23, 1982¹.
- v. EVA PEARL HARRIS¹, b. December 13, 1901, Person County¹; d. July 14, 1974, Victor, Colorado¹; m. FREDRICK LEON PAGE, JR.¹; d. December 14, 1970¹.
- vi. CLAUDE O'BRIANT HARRIS¹, b. January 25, 1904¹; d. December 29, 1972¹; m. EVELYN GUNTER¹, December 24, 1927, Sanford, North Carolina; b. January 26, 1906¹; d. December 13, 1967¹.
- vii. ROBERT BAYNES HARRIS¹, b. December 30, 1905¹; d. July 01, 1946¹; m. ROSA YARBOROUGH¹; b. November 03, 1910¹; d. August 18, 1995¹.
- viii. ELIZABETH ALMA HARRIS¹, b. May 11, 1908, Person County, North Carolina¹; d. April 19, 1995, Wake County, North Carolina¹; m. FRED LEE HUNT¹, August 12, 1931; b. December 16, 1902, Wake County, North Carolina¹; d. May 01, 1987, Wake County, North Carolina¹.
- ix. DORA CLAIRE HARRIS¹, b. July 22, 1910¹; d. May 12, 1912¹.
- x. MAY LOVE HARRIS¹, b. February 20, 1913¹; d. October 04, 1940¹; m. JAMES SIDNEY O'BRIANT¹; b. 1909.

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Company Muster Roll

No. 24

N. C.

Parham O'Briant

Co. C, 24 Reg't North Carolina Infantry (State Troops)

Approved by _____

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for *Sept 25 to Sept 27, 1861*

Enlisted:

When *May 2, 1861*

Where *Petersburg*

By whom *Jos. Robinson*

Period *Nov*

Last paid: _____

By whom _____

To what time *Sept 25, 1861*

Present or absent _____

Remarks: *Killed in the battle of Malvern Hill July 1, 1862*

1862

*This regiment was organized with nine companies in July, 1861. Company F was added in May, 1862, when the regiment was re-organized for ten years.

The designation of this regiment was changed from the 10th Regiment North Carolina Infantry (Volunteers) to the 24th Regiment North Carolina Infantry (State Troops) by G. O. No. 100, A. R. I. O. O., dated November 14, 1861.

J. Robinson

22

Parham O'Briant, Thomas' sister's brother-in-law was killed July 1, 1862 in the fighting at Malvern Hill near Petersburg.