During the Civil War numerous Confederate prisoners were transported north through Washington, DC; those with serious wounds or illness were admitted to local hospitals. Over 500 Confederate prisoners succumbed to their wounds or died of disease while at hospitals in or around the capital during the Civil War. From 1862 to 1865, some of these soldiers were buried at the Soldiers' Home Cemetery at North Capitol Street and Harewood Road; it was a convenient burial ground for the city's hospitals. During the Civil War the Soldiers' Home Cemetery would be the burial ground for at least 128 Southern soldiers or sympathizers. Total numbers are imprecise as certain soldiers were disinterred by family members. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, while serving as the U.S. Secretary of War in the 1850s, was the driving force behind the establishment of the Soldiers' Home.

On May 17th and 18th, 1864, the first two Confederate soldiers were buried in the new Soldiers' Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia. About 377 Confederates were buried in Arlington during the war. (From 1864 to the early 1870's the remains of at least 241 Confederates were removed, primarily by families and state agencies of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.) Confederate bodies were placed alongside those of their deceased foes, white Union soldiers, for burial. Black Union soldiers of the United States Colored Troops were buried separately in what is now Section 27. The burials at Arlington, home of General and Mrs. Robert E. Lee for 30 years prior to the Civil War, were part of Union Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs' plan to desecrate the Lee estate. The cemetery was intended to make the property uninhabitable — retaliation for Robert E. Lee resigning from the U.S. Army and becoming a Confederate General.

A Confederate Veteran's association in Washington, DC, the Charles Rouss Camp, petitioned President William McKinley in June 1899 to set aside a new Confederate Section at Arlington National Cemetery. The time appeared ripe for this request as the "South" had united with the "North" in the Spanish-American War of the previous year and McKinley appeared sympathetic to the plight of isolated Confederate graves with deteriorating wooden gravemarkers. The United States Congress
approved the plan for a Confederate section and appropriated funds on June 6, 1900.4

A site for the new Confederate Section was selected near what is now Fort Myer. Beginning in May 1901 Confederate soldiers were disinterred from the Soldiers’ Home Cemetery and moved from other parts of Arlington Cemetery. By October 1, 1901 about 264 Confederates and Southern sympathizers had been reinterred in the new Confederate Section known as Jackson Circle.5 From 1901 to around the 1930s there were an additional 222 burials in the Confederate Section. Among these burials were 58 wives of Confederate soldiers.6

As the significance of Arlington National Cemetery has grown over the decades, so has the significance of the Confederate burials. Burials that were intended to disgrace Lee and his family are now part of the most significant military cemetery in the United States. Soldiers who were Lee’s pawns on the battlefield are now, in effect, part of a memorial to him. Individually, the stories of certain soldiers must be told.

Hanibal, My Deceased Son

In the spring of 1862 the Union army, under the command of General George B. McClellan, travelled by ship to Fort Monroe and began to march up the James-York peninsula toward the Confederate capital at Richmond. The Confederates had hardly contested the Union advance. However, as Union soldiers pressed toward the town of Williamsburg they observed a series of fifteen earth fortifications (redoubts) blocking their path. The largest redoubt, called Fort Magruder, was named for the Confederate commander in charge of the defenses — General John B. Magruder. Fort Magruder was near the junction of the Williamsburg/Hampton Road (Route 60) and the Yorktown Road, and anchored the Confederate defensive line.7

On the morning of May 5, 1862, Confederate soldiers in General A.P. Hill’s brigade (the First, Seventh, Eleventh and Seventeenth Virginia Infantry Regiments) left their knapsacks on residential lawns in Williamsburg and proceeded 0.3 mile southeast. They had spent the previous day and night within the historic town of Williamsburg — the second capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1780. Their orders were to resist the Union advance until Confederate wagon trains, slowed by the rain and mud, could escape. As Union troops under General Joseph Hooker moved toward Fort Magruder, Hill’s brigade moved forward.8

From the Quarter Path Road (a colonial race track) to an area east of the Williamsburg Road (the right flank of the Confederate defenses), Company A of the 11th Virginia Infantry advanced through a woods of

Arlington Historical Society
dense pine, brush, and undergrowth. The sound of musketry became deafening as Union and Confederate soldiers fought at close range, in the woods, standing up. Visibility became poor due to the rain and from smoke created by the discharge of their blackpowder rifles. After an hour of incessant firing the brigade charged and drove back Union infantrymen through the woods. The brigade reached a field of felled timber where the Seventieth New York Infantry was deployed.9

For two hours both sides blazed away from positions protected by the felled trees. Soldiers were struck among the logs and then “dropped in all sorts of positions, some falling suddenly forward, others sliding gently backwards or sideways.”10 The attack by Hill’s brigade helped temporarily to blunt the Union movement towards Richmond, allowing wagon trains to proceed to Richmond. After the battle Hill praised the Eleventh Virginia, stating that the “regiment ever pressed forward.”11 General J.E.B. Stuart’s battle report commended the Eleventh Virginia for fighting with “heroic courage.”12 However, the price of success for the Eleventh Virginia was high — 31 men killed, 93 wounded and 9 missing. Many of the casualties occurred in Company A which suffered a 50% loss.13 The only Confederate regiment to sustain more casualties in this rear guard stalemate action known as the Battle of Williamsburg was the Twenty Fourth Virginia Infantry, which had attacked a Union advance made on the Confederate extreme left flank.14

In the ranks of Company A of the 11th Virginia on May 5, 1862 was a 21-year-old artist from Concord Depot (Campbell County), Virginia named Hanibal T. Elam. In 1860 Hanibal had lived at Reedy Spring, Appomattox County with his father, Roland Elam, his mother, Nancy Elam, and his younger sister, Ellen. The 1860 federal census indicates that Roland Elam was a 61-year-old farmer (born in Virginia in 1799) with a personal estate of $3,036. That census also reflects that Hanibal, age 19, and Ellen, age 15, had attended school within the last year.15 Hanibal Elam enrolled in the Eleventh Virginia Infantry at Lynchburg, Virginia on April 22, 1861, ten days after the war began at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. He was always present with his regiment until, in the steady rain of May 5, 1862, he was wounded and left at a makeshift hospital in Williamsburg during the Confederate withdrawal. Elam was one of many wounded Confederate soldiers captured and transported to Washington, DC. Upon admittance to Cliffburne General Hospital on May 17, 1862, Elam’s complaint was a gunshot wound of the thigh which had shattered the neck of his femur bone. According to hospital records he succumbed to his [infected] wound on May 27, 1862 and was buried at the Soldiers’ Home Cemetery.16
On August 11, 1862, Roland Elam endorsed a notarized affidavit stating that his son had not been paid for Confederate services from January 1, 1862 to the date of his death. In May and August of 1863 Roland Elam wrote additional letters to the Confederate Treasury Department stating his claim and desiring a “final statement of the accounts of my deceased son, H.T. Elam.” In February 1864 the Confederate government found that Hanibal Elam’s estate was due $53.90. But no amount could alter the emotional suffering of Roland and Nancy Elam because in a perfect world children are expected to survive their parents.

By 1870 the Elams had purchased land in Appomattox County, the county where their children had been born. According to the 1870 census, Roland Elam’s occupation was listed as “Farmer” and Nancy Elam’s as “Keeping House.” Their estate was worth less than half its prewar value. The war had taken their only son and had struck close to their Appomattox farmland in the waning days of the war before General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate army in the small village at Appomattox Court House. In 1901 the remains of Hanibal T. Elam were reinterred on the former estate of General Robert E. Lee in Arlington, Virginia.

**Je N’Arrive Jamais Trop Tard!**

In May 1862 the Union Army of the Potomac, under the command of General George B. McClellan, crept closer to Richmond, Virginia. In order to keep Union troops in the Shenandoah valley from uniting with the Army of the Potomac, General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson was given independent command of 16,000 Confederate soldiers who overwhelmed a Union garrison of 1,000 at Front Royal on May 23, 1862. Two days later Union forces under the command of Nathaniel P. Banks formed battle lines on hills south of the town of Winchester to challenge Jackson’s surging force. Several Louisiana regiments under the command of General Richard Taylor (son of former President Zachary Taylor) charged upon the elevated Union right flank, forcing a Union withdrawal in what became known as the Battle of First Winchester.

After Union soldiers retreated up the Valley Turnpike (Route 11) through Winchester, a 35-year-old woman exclaimed to passing Confederate infantrymen, “You are too late — too late!” A tall soldier of the Eighth Louisiana “sprang from the ranks ... clasped her in his arms, and imparted a sounding kiss on her ripe lips” and said, “Madame, je n’arrive jamais trop tard” (I never arrive too late!). The care-free manner of the Eighth Louisiana was not shared by her sister regiment, the Ninth Louisiana, which sustained casualties of 5 killed and 37 wounded in the assault. Among those wounded was Private James N. Saxon. The 22-
year-old Saxon was residing in Winfield, Louisiana when he enlisted in the spring of 1862. Prior to being slightly wounded at the Battle of Winchester, Saxon had marched 120 miles with his regiment in ten days. Such exploits earned Stonewall Jackson’s infantry its nickname, “foot cavalry.”

In spite of his wound, James Saxon continued on with the Ninth Louisiana. After forcing numerous Union regiments to remain in the Valley to confront the Confederate presence, Stonewall Jackson’s army slipped away to Richmond to assist in driving off Union forces which had reached the outskirts of the city. Saxon was captured at Malvern Hill — the conclusion of the so-called Seven Days’ Battle before Richmond. It appears he was immediately exchanged or released during the Union retreat and admitted into a Richmond hospital. For the remainder of 1862 Saxon was ill with a fever. Saxon’s sickness continued as he spent the summer of 1863 at his father’s farm at Cuthbert — the county seat of Randolph County, Georgia. At home to tend to Saxon’s needs were his 45-year-old father, Richard, his 42-year-old mother, Margaret, and his ten younger brothers and sisters.

Few headstones are as complete as Saxon’s. His date of death was 12/3/63. He was buried on 12/4/63.
In the autumn of 1863 Saxon returned to his regiment stationed in a tete-de-pont, a redoubt and rifle pits constructed to defend a pontoon bridge, at Rappahannock Station, Virginia. This formation was faulty, because the defenses were built on the north side of the Rappahannock River with only one pontoon bridge in the rear of the Confederate forces, thus virtually prohibiting escape if any section of the defensive line near the bridge were captured. This alignment by General Robert E. Lee, a former officer of the U.S. Engineer Corps, is deemed to be one of the two major mistakes in judgment that the otherwise renowned general made in the Civil War. (Lee’s other major error was, of course, ordering the ill-fated Pickett-Pettigrew assault across open ground of over a mile against Union lines that had the advantages of terrain and artillery support at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.)

After dusk on November 7, 1863 two Union army corps overwhelmed the positions at Rappahannock Station, capturing 1,600 Confederate soldiers. Saxon was taken prisoner after having received a bullet wound in his right knee. He was transported to Stanton Hospital in Washington, DC. where his right leg was amputated. On December 3, 1863 the ligature separated from Saxon’s femoral artery. Saxon lost so much blood that he died eight hours later. He was buried the next day at the Soldiers’ Home Cemetery in Washington, DC. Thirty-eight years later, in the summer of 1901, Saxon was reinterred in the new Confederate Section at Arlington National Cemetery. His remains, indeed, did not arrive too late to the burial ground that in the 20th century would become the most significant of all U.S. military cemeteries.

Resolve

On June 9, 1862, the last day of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Stonewall Jackson’s army crossed the South River at Port Republic, having defeated forces under the command of John C. Fremont at the Battle of Cross Keys the day before. Port Republic is a small town situated between the North River and South River where the rivers merge and become the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Attacking without proper reconnaissance, the Confederates were surprised by the number of Union soldiers under the command of General James Shields, ready for battle. Well posted Union artillery opened fire on the Confederate advance. Jackson ordered General Richard Taylor and his Louisiana troops to “take those batteries.”

The Louisiana regiments began a circuitous flanking movement, one of Jackson’s favorite tactics, taking a forest path to the right of the main road to Elkton (known today as Route 340 or Stonewall Jackson Highway).
After three assaults the Louisianians captured the Union artillery in hand to hand fighting. The loss of this position forced Shields to order a withdrawal that was so disorderly 450 Union soldiers were captured; 550 Union soldiers were killed or wounded. Confederate casualties at the Battle of Port Republic were 804. Among the Confederate wounded was Lee Crandall, Captain of Company I (The Rapides Invincibles) of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry, one of the regiments that had turned the tide of battle.

In January of 1863, perhaps due in part to his wound, Crandall sought command of a cavalry unit, stating he had a "physical disability for service in the field as an infantry officer." Crandall received a recommendation from his commanding general, Stonewall Jackson, having been under his command since the Battle of First Manassas:

Hon. J.A. Seddon [Confederate Secretary of War] Jan 16th 1863

Sir,

Should an opportunity offer for making capt. Lee Crandall of Louisiana a major of cavalry I respectfully recommend that he be appointed. He possesses admirable qualities for a cavalry commander. His conduct was conspicuous in the cavalry pursuit which succeeded in capturing nearly the entire Federal Garrison of Front Royal in May last.

I am sir your obedient servant

T J Jackson
Lt. General

Crandall was granted a commission as major of the Forty Seventh Arkansas Cavalry. There was great rivalry within the unit as it consisted of one Missouri company, two Mississippi companies, three Texas companies and four Arkansas companies. In the Civil War it was customary that all individual companies of a regiment be comprised of men from a single state. The composition of the Forty Seventh Arkansas Cavalry was an exception.

Crandall was soon promoted to colonel and reported to General Sterling Price at Little Rock, Arkansas. Crandall led his cavalry unit on successful raids into Kansas and Missouri until he was wounded and captured on October 25, 1864 at Mine Creek, Missouri. He was confined at Johnson’s Island, Ohio until his release on June 30, 1865, nearly three months after the end of the war. Crandall then moved to Morgan County, Alabama where he married Harriet M. Giers. From 1879 to 1884 they resided in Washington, DC, where Crandall was editor of the National View. In 1884 he moved to Arizona and began a mining business.
Colonel Lee Crandall

Throughout his life Crandall attended commercial conventions and Confederate veteran association meetings. At a 1901 commercial convention, Crandall organized and became President of the Confederate Mining Company. The company graciously shared, per company bylaws, investor stock dividends with indigent former Confederate soldiers. It appears that copper and gold were profitably mined at the company property in Gila County, Arizona.34

In 1914 Crandall returned to Washington, DC to serve as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue. At the age of 91, in 1923, Crandall was described as “active, bright and cheerful.”35 In twelve years with that office he did not take a day of sick leave until he developed a severe cold on September 10, 1926. Crandall, age 94, the oldest federal government employee, died two days later.36 Crandall’s life experiences, in war,
business, and government, indicate a man of benevolence, post-war unity, and resolve. Although he was a federal worker at his death, Crandall is buried in the Confederate section at Arlington National Cemetery, as is his wife, Harriet. Perhaps he had indicated to family and friends a desire to permanently rest with wartime comrades as the difficult experiences he shared with them in the Civil War developed and strengthened his resolve for accomplishment.

The Cornfield

At 6:25 a.m. on September 17, 1862, 1st Lieutenant Thomas Cowan, Jr. and members of Company B of the 3rd Regiment, North Carolina Troops crouched along a rail fence on Samuel Mumma’s farm in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The regiment had spent the night in the field near the Mummas’ apple orchard and had been awakened by Union artillery fire. To the left of Company B, Union and Confederate troops began a series of encounters in an area that would become known as “The Cornfield” of farmer David R. Miller. Between 7:20 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Company B advanced towards The Cornfield, crossing over the rail fence on Smoketown Road. The North Carolinians were hastily aligned facing The Cornfield, close to the East Woods.37

The Third North Carolina and her three sister regiments of Ripley’s Brigade (First North Carolina, Fourth Georgia, Forty Fourth Georgia) held various positions near the edge of The Cornfield throughout the morning as attacks and counterattacks in this area ebbed and flowed. Just outside the East Woods, entering the 40-acre cornfield at roughly a 45 degree angle, was the 128th Pennsylvania Infantry.38 The Pennsylvanians’ riflery, coupled with artillery fire from Union cannons beyond The Cornfield, decimated the ranks of the North Carolinians. The Southerners fought back, primarily with smoothbore muskets, until they ran out of “buck and ball” cartridges — a cartridge consisting of three buck shots in addition to a standard size ball that, when fired, had a spray effect similar to that of a shotgun.39

Out of 547 soldiers of the Third North Carolina present at the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), the regiment sustained about 320 casualties before the remnants of its companies fled from the field. No other Confederate regiment had more soldiers killed or wounded at Sharpsburg than the Third North Carolina.40 Twenty-three of the twenty-seven line officers of the Third North Carolina were hit, with seven dying from their wounds.41 Company B, entering the fray with approximately sixty men, sustained thirty casualties — killed, wounded, and missing. Total Union and Confederate losses were 24,412, making the Battle of Antietam the single
bloodiest day in American history. Among the casualties of September 17, 1862 was Lieutenant Thomas Cowan, Jr.

Prior to the war Thomas Cowan, Jr. was employed as a lawyer. His father, Thomas, Sr., was a Brunswick County farmer with an estate valued over $21,000. The family of Thomas and Mary Cowan consisted of Thomas, Jr. (the second oldest child), his three younger brothers, and two sisters. On May 16, 1861, the 23-year-old lawyer enlisted in the Third North Carolina and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Cowan was promoted to first lieutenant on July 1, 1862, following the Seven Days' Battle before Richmond where the regiment fought on June 26 at Mechanicsville (sustaining forty-six casualties), and July 1 at Malvern Hill (suffering eighty casualties).

When Company B retreated from The Cornfield, after nearly three hours of fighting, at least eighteen of its members were left on the field. Five were dead, five were mortally wounded, and eight were captured—all having wounds. Cowan was wounded and captured, probably near The Cornfield, where the fighting had been in the open field once the corn stalks had fallen. If Cowan had been wounded along the Smoketown Road or on the Mumma farm (in proximity to Confederate lines) he likely

Cowan, a lawyer prior to the war, was mortally wounded at Antietam on 9/17/62.

Arlington Historical Society
would have been carried back as were a dozen other wounded men from Company B.

After his capture, Cowan was transported by a horse-drawn wagon approximately 55 miles southeast to a hospital in Washington, DC. He died October 4, 1862, 18 days after being wounded, and was buried at the Soldiers’ Home Cemetery. Lieutenant Cowan was reinterred in the Confederate section, Jackson Circle, of Arlington National Cemetery in 1901. The bravery of Company B’s efforts, in the Civil War’s most famous cornfield, is memorialized in our most renowned cemetery by its fallen lieutenant.

Distant Horseman

On the morning of June 8, 1863, Confederate cavalry under the command of J.E.B. Stuart assembled near Culpeper Court House for a review conducted by General Robert E. Lee. Confederate morale was high. The good spirits, however, were short-lived, because the next day 9,000 Union horsemen and 2,000 infantrymen led by General Alfred Pleasonton crossed the Rappahannock River at Beverly Ford and Kelly’s Ford and boldly struck Stuart’s force of about 10,000 cavalrymen. Caught up in what would be the largest cavalry battle on the American continent was William Stone of Company D, First South Carolina Cavalry.

Incessant cavalry charges and countercharges swirled between Fleetwood Hill, St. James Church and a railroad station known as Brandy Station. On the extreme right of the Confederate line (near Route 15) facing the Rappahannock River were South Carolina cavalry regiments of General Wade Hampton’s Brigade. These units were engaged early in the battle — which lasted for about 11 hours and resulted in 485 Confederate casualties and 866 Union casualties. Although the Union cavalry withdrew from the field, they had fought with distinction, taking with them a measure of confidence, respect and some prisoners — among whom was William Stone. It appears that Stone was wounded and captured near Beverly Ford since the First South Carolina Cavalry galloped towards that portion of the Rappahannock River early in the battle to stall the Union infantry and cavalry advance.

Before the war Stone was employed as a farm laborer. The value of his personal estate was $5.00. A South Carolinian by birth, Stone enlisted in the Chester Troop of Chesterville, South Carolina on September 10, 1861, bringing his own horse into service. He was in continuous service until shot in the upper portion of his left thigh in the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. Stone was immobilized by a conical bullet that fractured his leg. He was captured and transported to Washington, DC, where he was.
admitted to ward 18 of Lincoln Hospital on June 10. Stone, age 34, died from his wound one week later on June 17.49

While Stone was being laid to rest at the Soldiers' Home Cemetery on North Capitol Street in Washington, DC, news of his demise was travelling to his wife, Margaret Morris Stone, in Chesterville, South Carolina. Located 50 miles south of Charlotte, North Carolina, the small town of Chesterville (now called Chester) is the county seat for Chester County — settled and named by founding families from Chester County, Pennsylvania. News of Stone's fate surely brought grief to his wife and three children: William, Jr., age 6, Margaret, age 4, and Edward, age 2. Stone's wife, Margaret, died in 1870 at the age of 36 and her brother, John Morris, became guardian of the children. Morris then brought the children to live with him in Georgia.50

Stone's marker does not list his Company (D) or Regiment (First South Carolina Cavalry). The seal at the top indicates service in the Confederate Army.

Sometime between May 15, 1901 and October 1, 1901 Stone's remains were disinterred from the Soldiers' Home Cemetery and reinterred in the Confederate Section in Arlington National Cemetery. A new headstone, 20 inches high, 10 inches wide and 4 inches thick, of white marble was placed at his grave. Four years later in Chester County, South Carolina, a
local chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument in the town, one block from the Court House. The monument’s inscription states that:

This monument guards the memory of the men of Chester District who obeying the call of their state died for the Confederate Cause 1861 - 1865

Time may crumble this marble into dust but time can not dim their glory. Their patriotism, their valor, their faithfulness and their fame remain forever the heritage of their countrymen.

William Stone’s grave is 450 miles from his pre-war home. The marble of his Arlington National Cemetery headstone and the marble of the Confederate monument in the town of Chester have not yet turned to dust.

Notes and References

George W. Dodge is an Arlington lawyer specializing in Elder Law. He holds a Master of Arts Degree in American history with an emphasis on the Civil War.

2Register of Burials, Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery.
6Historian’s Office, Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery.
7Virginia Historic Landmark Commission, A Guidebook to Virginia’s Historical Markers (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1985), p. 161; Ralph White Gunn, 24th Virginia Infantry (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc, 1987) pp. 18-20; Exhibit in lobby at Fort Magruder Inn, Route 60, Williamsburg, VA. The partial remains of redoubt #3 are behind the inn. In front of the inn are two Civil War highway markers. There are no monuments or other markers or exhibits about the Battle of Williamsburg.
10Ibid., p. 416.
12Ibid., p. 571.
14Gunn, 24th Virginia Infantry, pp. 18-20, 67.
16Military Service Record of Hanibal T. Elam.
17 Ibid.
18 1870 Federal Census, Reel 1633, p. 66.
20 Ibid., pp. 82-86.
23 Military Service Record of James N. Saxon, Company D, 9th Louisiana Infantry, National Archives.
24 Ibid.
27 Military Service Record of James Saxon.
30 Military Service Record of Lee Crandall, Company I, Eighth Louisiana Infantry, National Archives.
31 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Ibid., p. 375.
36 Military Service Record of Lee Crandall.
38 Priest, *Antietam*, p. 82.
42 Priest, *Antietam*, pp. 82, 343.
43 1860 Federal Census, Reel 888, p. 345.
44 Military Service Record of Thomas Cowan, Jr., Company B, 3rd North Carolina Infantry, National Archives.
46 Military Service Record of Thomas Cowan, Jr.
49 Military Service Record of William Stone, Company D, First South Carolina Cavalry, National Archives.
50 Chester County Circuit Court chancery case file for guardianship of the Stone children. (A fourth child of William and Margaret Stone, John, died in the 1860s.) Special thanks to Bill Marion of Chester County, Rob Yarmey of Charlotte, North Carolina, and W.C. Stone, Jr. of Chester County.