

CAPTAIN DANIEL PITCHFORD PATTERSON
CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY

By Gene Braschler

Daniel Pitchford Patterson was born in Tennessee on November 24, 1833, to John and Mary Patterson. The family moved to Ripley County, Missouri while Daniel was yet an infant. They settled first on Mill Creek where Daniel spent most of his life. They later, purchased land along Fourche de Mas Creek in the Sugar Tree Grove area of southwest Ripley County.

Although Daniel was born in Carroll County, Tennessee, his grandparents, George and Nancy Patterson had remained at their long-time home on Salt Lick Creek in Macon County, Tennessee. This is where Daniel spent several winters of his youth to obtain an education. She showed an early interest in guns and general blacksmithing, and this became an important part of his educational process. In fact, this propensity so impressed his father that he specified in his will that "Pitchford" would have his personal gun at his death. By the time Daniel was twenty-one years of age, he was the acknowledged family and community gunsmith/blacksmith.

Early in his twentieth year, he married Elizabeth Hart on February 7, 1854. She was born in Tennessee to Aaron and Catharine Hart who had immigrated to Ripley County at the same time as the Pattersons. By 1860, the young couple had three sons; Cornelius, William, and Daniel P., Jr. During June of that year tragedy struck when Cornelius received accidental burns that caused his death. A daughter, Mary Catherine, was born in 1862. When Capt. J. O. Shelby arrived in Ripley County on a recruiting trip in June of that year, Daniel was ready to go with him. However, wife Elizabeth, who was pregnant with Amanda, could not be left alone. Soon help was found to stay with Elizabeth and their three children.

On August 13, 1862, Daniel signed to leave Ripley County with Col. James D. White and a sizable number of volunteers of varied experience. Just two days out, they met the enemy at "Little River Bridge in Missouri." Col. White was headed for Yellville, Arkansas with his partly organized regiment. Yellville, about twenty miles southwest of the present town of Mountain Home, was the site for powder manufacture and storage. It was also the designated training area for confederate recruits. The flat fields along the Crooked Creed were ideal for camp drill and bivouac. On October 22, 1862, when organization was complete, Daniel was elected Jr. 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to Co. H. Training and preparation of combat went well to a point, and the newly organized troops were soon tested in battle at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. This occurred on December 7th, 1862, after they had been held in reserve at Cane Hill.

On April 25, 1863, Daniel was in Little Rock, Arkansas purchasing new uniform components. One of the items considered inferior if manufactured in the South was felt campaign hats. Judging from the price paid, he must have purchased one made in the North. It cost \$15.00. He signed as 2nd. Lt., 3rd Regiment, 4th Brigade. The next month, on May 19th, he was promoted to Captain. This was before the decision was made to attack Helena.

His regiment (White's) had given a good account of itself in the battle of Prairie Grove. Col. White was always respected by the enemy and was the pride of his superiors. This was due partly to his ability as a military leader and partly to the fact that his regiment was composed of volunteers from Ripley and adjoining counties, both MO and AR. Most all of their problems were due to poor judgment and leadership at the top. Brigade Commander Gen. M. M. Parsons was very capable. Leadership at the next level failed several times. Mostly when Gen. Sterling Price failed, it could be blamed on the fact that he was forced into no-win situations or he was selected for the wrong job at the wrong time. He was capable but was often not used to best advantage. A book could be written on this subject; so, further reference is unnecessary except as it affects Capt. Patterson's military career.

There was an incident during the battle of Prairie Grove that had a profound effect on the regiment that was never completely reconciled. Col. White was away and the Lt. Col. had charge of the regiment. One of Capt. Patterson's neighbors and fellow officers Lt. Richard Spence, became ill before the battle. A remark was made by the Col. Which Lt. Spence received as an accusation of cowardice. This was December and hard feelings with refusals to follow orders continued until late June. Col. White, wishing to continue the "Volunteer Spirit" among the troops, restored Lt. Spencer to his command. He had not fully recovered from his illness, and the twelve days required to get the infantry to Helena was exceedingly toilsome. He was at the head of this command when the 9th advanced on Graveyard Hill. Lt. Spence became the first casualty with a bullet in his forehead.

Col. White had his regiment march in the following order. The 9th Missouri Sharpshooter Battalion was used as advance guard. Then, in order came the 9th, 7th and 10th Missouri Infantry Regiments. "They were never checked once, and were soon in possession of the fort." Since Gen. Parsons's troops were given the lead role, it may be assumed that Col. White's 9th Regiment was considered the "class" of the infantry. Pride was further evidenced when Gen. Parson expressed enthusiasm as Col. White's battle flag was raised on Graveyard Hill.

Even though the battle of Prairie Grove and the long march through mud and water to Helena had both taken their toll, the soldiers of the 9th Volunteer Regiment represented a well trained and effective unit - - probably as good as could be found in the entire Confederacy. This was evident later in the battles of Pleasant Hill and Jenkins Ferry.

Although Gen. Price had initially favored the attempt to take Helena, after arrival in the area, he favored an alternate plan. Gen. Holmes would have no part of backing off and overruled Gen. Price in no uncertain terms. After the battle was over, both Gen. Parsons and Gen. Price prepared to recognize several officers and enlisted men of outstanding action. Gen. Holmes refused; stating that "the battle was lost and there was

no honor to be shared.” He never admitted that his bungling was one of the reasons why the attack was unsuccessful.

The brigade suffered heavy losses, particularly in men wounded and missing. According to most reports, the 9th (White’s Regiment) suffered the lowest casualties; 7 killed, 43 wounded and none missing. The totals for Gen. Parsons’ Brigade were 59 killed, 326 wounded and 368 missing. A report of those available for duty, two days after the battle would indicate that the 9th’s losses were exceedingly heavy. The eight inch shells launched from the gun boat Tyler were the most effective weapon that caused high figures of killed and wounded.

For all practical purposes, the battle of Helena represented the end of Capt. Patterson’s active campaigning with the 9th Missouri Volunteers. For the next several months, the cavalry “stole the show,” with the duel between Gens. Walker and Marmaduke. The Infantry did get involved in plans to defend Little Rock before the decision was made to fall back into Louisiana.

On December 6, 1863, Capt. Patterson was ordered by Brig. Gen. M. M. Parsons to recruit duty along the Missouri/Arkansas border. The special order #215 also sent other officers back to this vicinity. Capt. Epps was ordered via the same S. O., and was captured at the Christmas Day massacre in S. W. Ripley Co. Specific assignments of each are not known; however, Capt. Patterson more or less headquartered new Newport, Arkansas (100 miles from home) for the next several months. He was yet listed as being detached from Price’s Division, C.S.A., White’s (9th) Missouri Regiment, Camp Bragg, AR at this time.

Early during the remainder of December and the first part of 1864, recruiting appeared to occupy most of his time. His mode of operation was to recruit 15 to 20 permanent men who had combat experience or were otherwise dependable. With this basic unit, he could move raw recruits for long distances in comparative safety. Recruits were massed south from as far North as mid-state. He in turn took them most of the way

to Camden. Unfortunately, it is impossible to document any of the many stories handed down by relatives and members who served with him. However, the amount of territory which he covered and the location is proof that his was a unique operation.

As time passed, scouting became more important, particularly around Jacksonport and Pocahontas. Gen. Shelby was known for his use of scouts, and before Gen. Price's Sept. 1864, invasion of Missouri; Capt. Patterson officially became Company Commander of Co. B, 15th Missouri Cavalry under Col. Timothy Reeves.

Thus, Capt. Patterson became a member of this exceedingly large regiment whose members operated much the same as he. It is not known if his company was used as a model or if the idea had been developed by Col. Reeves and others. The 15th Missouri Cavalry, although assigned to Gen. Fagan, was represented in all three segments of Price's Army during the 1864 invasion. Capt. Patterson was with Gen. Fagan and the Headquarters (middle unit) and preformed as a reconnaissance patrol unit. It is not known if he continued with Price's Army throughout the campaign. Apparently, he inherited long time members from the 15th Co. B and combined these with his skeletal Co. which he used for the purpose of moving recruits south to Camden. As late as March 24th, 1865, he was reported at Pine Bluff, AR with fifty or sixty men. The Federal Capt. John A. Norris, Thirteenth Illinois Cavalry referred to him as "Shelby's Men." He also mentioned the "impropriety" of a contest against the federal carbines. This is interesting, since Capt. Patterson's company had captured "multi-shooters" at the battle of Helena which were used to good advantage. Being an amateur gunsmith he was naturally interested in the new model rifles and hand guns which were being used by some federal units. Previous to the above time and after August 1864, Capt. Patterson and Co. B were with his commander Col. Reeves, and perhaps Co. A of the 15th on at least two occasions. It is not known how matters such as pay roll, specific orders, and other administrative matters were handled. From known records and other information sources, it appears that Capt. Patterson's Co. B of the 15th MO Cavalry continued operating with headquarters near Newport/Jacksonport until it was surrendered at Jacksonport on June 5, 1865.

One reason Confederate officers and men with assignments such as the above wished to forget their participation was the abuse of the legitimate task of preventing outlawry. This was used as an excuse by the scum of humanity for both armies and by many who were not a part of either army.

There was another little known cruel aspect of the war by which Capt. Patterson and his family were made to suffer. This was the economic and food source embargo place upon members of officers' families by the U. S. Army. This was particularly effective in parts of Arkansas where much of the food production was under control of that army. During the war, he lost two children (sons) from malnutrition/maltreatment. Two daughters survived but were severely affected. His wife survived only to die from childbirth after the war. This was probably due to mainly the lack of food and hardship suffered during the war. She died 8 days after the birth of their son Thomas J. born Dec. 28, 1865. She died on Jan 5, 1866.

By 1868, Capt. Patterson was back on his Mill Creek farm in Ripley Co., MO. He married Luranah Hart, a niece of his first wife. Their first child, a son, was born during 1869 and named Joseph Shelby for Gen. Shelby. Captain Patterson farmed on a diversified basis which was new to Ripley County. This was successful considering the economy of the time. He soon finished building a large log home, complete with "dog trot," a large hay/horse barn and a very unique spring house. Meanwhile, the family continued to increase. A daughter Hestora (Tory) was born in 1871, daughter Ruda in 1872, and son Robert E. in 1874, a son David P. in 1876, and two more sons Fisher and Benjamin both born after 1880.

During 1876, the Pattersons decided to move to the great state of Texas. Daughter Hestora was five years old and later remembered the most exciting part of the trip (by covered wagon) to Texas was when they camped on the state capital grounds at Little Rock, Arkansas. Capt. Patterson had done this before.

Meanwhile, the first stop, Barnum, Texas, did not appeal to the family. This was timber country where other Ripley County families were living. The Pattersons pushed on to Weatherford, Parker County, Texas. From Weatherford, Captain Patterson wrote to his nephew William H. Merrell, under the date of June 3, 1877, part of which is quoted below.

His feelings about Texas need no further explaining.

He was back in Ripley County, MO by 1878 with a new outlook on making a living. He would continue diversified farming and his blacksmithing/gunsmithing operation. However, a new idea had received his attention. Horse racing had long been popular in the South part of Ripley County. There were two tracks in the Pratt Community. The competition was lively. Further, he remembered that the troops often entertained themselves with horse racing and cockfighting during lulls in the war. More, the sport of horse racing was following the westward movement in a big way. Settlements in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Texas were demanding fast horses. Added to this he had contacts from his military days, some of which were already making good money buying and selling racing stock. In fact, many Missourians and Arkansans had moved to the western frontier from where they proclaimed the greatness of horses from their home areas.

As the Yankees and Rebels met again on the western frontier, horse racing was so important that a good fast horse was considered much the same as a great (the Franchise) athlete is to a ball club. In other words, large ranches were bet on the outcome of a horse race. Capt. Patterson began protecting his name as a winner more and more. His son related that they were forbidden to ever let another beat them in a horse race.

With all the capital that he could muster, Capt. Patterson purchased a stallion for \$1000.00 and three mares for an average of \$300 each. Considering the price of the horses at the time, this was some of the most expensive horseflesh ever brought

into Ripley County. In more modern vernacular, "The rest is history." From this foundation stock and three of four good mares he already owned he was able to produce colts that could win. By racing locally and winning, he was soon able to sell three or four year old horses at premium prices. He continued the farming practices which had paid off earlier.

Two more boys, General Fisher and Benjamin, were born into the family during the 1880's. Daniel soon had nine living children out of the thirteen he had fathered. By 1890, he was financially stable and the older children were beginning to make homes of their own. His eldest daughter, Mary Catherine (Cass) had married John W. (Tobe) Hutcherson on Jan. 28, 1884. His second daughter Amanda married R. F. (Bud) Ryan on June 9th, 1886. She was 23 years of age at the time. Thomas J., who was born in 1865, when his mother died, was a grown young man of 24 years. He never married but chose to remain at home and help with the horses and other livestock. Joseph S., the eldest son of D. P. and Rena, was twenty-one. He wanted to go west and soon left for Texas. He later moved back to Oklahoma. Hestora (Tora) married her cousin John Perry (Thomp) Patterson, and their first daughter Elsie was born August 20, 1891. Thomp died February 23, 1893, twenty-seven days before their second daughter Frona was born March 22, 1893. Hestora would live more than 90 years when she died April 1, 1962. Daniel P., Jr. had already decided to remain on the farm. He married Della Durham and moved to a newly built house about one-half mile southeast of his father's home. Meanwhile, Robert Lee left for Texas to join brother Joe. Ruda died rather unexpectedly, leaving Thomas and the two young boys Fisher and Ben at home.

About this time occurred one of the big races at the local track remembered many years later by sons Tom, Fisher, and Ben. The boys had worked hard training and preparing their home grown, three year old black stallion for the big race. Ben was twelve years old. He was to ride the "Black King." As added protection the captain tied a safety rope around young Ben. It was a long race all around the circular track, and the black stallion won going away. However, the horses bumped as he went by, breaking Ben's leg. It was not a serious break and he soon recovered.

Laurana died on August 23rd, 1893. This came only six months after “Thomp’s” death making 1893 a tragic year for the Pattersons. Hestora and her two daughters moved temporarily back to the home place. However, within just over a year, she was married to John Adams. Hey later had four sons and two daughters who lived and twin daughters who died as infants.

Daniel had been busy with considerable time spent on community affairs. He was particularly interested in schools and served several years on the local board of directors. He was also active in county politics as a Democrat. He had gone through the hardships of the war without health problems of any concern. However, after his sixty-fifth birthday, he began having some problems. Perhaps, this was a result of his war years- perhaps not. Although his health deteriorated, he continued to provide a home for his two young boys, Fisher and Ben. Like most farmers of the period, he had maintained other livestock including cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, and his fox hounds. The latter, along with his game fowl, were from the best stock available. Fisher and Ben were now teenagers, both with ideas of leaving the farm and going west. Faced with this situation, Daniel turned most of this livestock and farming operation over to his son D. P. Jr., keeping only his horses and such other as was required to supply family needs.

Throughout his lifetime Capt. Patterson had placed very high value upon friendship and loyalty to his friends. Also during his latter years, most friends and neighbors began referring to him as “Uncle Pit”. During his illness, which lasted two years, friendship paid off in the form of almost constant visitors to his delight. He loved people and was loved in return.

Excerpts from some news items in The Prospect News during August and September, 1900 are included below:

Thurs., Aug. 9, 1900 – “Uncle Pit Patterson is bad sick.....”

Thurs., Aug. 23, 1900 – “Uncle Pit Patterson died.....”

Thurs., Aug. 30, 1900 – “Joe and Bob Patterson learned of their father’s death after arriving here from Texas.” “They had come after receiving word their father was seriously ill.”

Thurs., Aug 30, 1900 – “Neely Moore appointed administrator of the estate of D.P. Patterson.”

Thurs., Sep. 13, 1900 – “Over 200 persons attended the Pit Patterson sale Monday.”

The Civil War had been ended for over 35 years when Capt. Patterson died. His obituary as published in The Prospect News, including front page coverage, length, and listing of the individuals from Doniphan who were in attendance at his funeral, indicated the very high esteem in which he was held. To conclude this story, it is included in full.

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Daniel Pitchford Patterson is my GGG Grandfather.

Daniel Pitchford Patterson
→ Benjamin Jacob Patterson
→ Sherman Alvie Patterson
→ Lyndon Pete Patterson
→ Lyndon Lee Patterson
→ Lyndon Matthew Patterson