

MARTHA SUSAN WHITAKER

Martha Susan Whitaker, fifth child of William and Mary Cantey Whitaker, was born July 10, 1825 in Washington County, Georgia. On July 14, 1840, at the age of fifteen years, she was married to Dr. Jacob Perry Welch of Sandersville, Georgia. Rev. Walter Branham performed the ceremony. An interesting romance is related concerning the proposal of Dr. Welch to the fifteen year-old Martha Susan Whitaker, who was attending school in Sandersville, Georgia. When he asked her to marry him, she replied that she must have time to think it over. The next time he came to see her she had painted a spray of peach blossoms on a small canvas, in the corner of which she had, "I am your captive--M", peach blossoms being symbolic of a captive. This painting she placed in his beaver hat and when he found it, he knew that he had been accepted. This picture, together with Mrs. Welch's wedding stockings and an autograph album are preserved by Mrs. E. Jarman, of Gadsden, Alabama.

For a number of years after their marriage, Dr. and Mrs. Welch made their home in Sandersville, Georgia. During that time her mother died. Prior to the war between the states, Dr. and Mrs. Welch moved with their family to Alamucha, Mississippi. After spending a few prosperous and happy years, the war broke out. The following letter from Dr. Welch to his brother-in-law, James Whitaker, tells of the conditions there at that time:

Alamucha, Mississippi

Mr. James C. Whitaker.

My dear Sir:

I wrote your brother Sam, with a portion of the letter to yourself a few days ago. And as the tornado has passed for a time I will write a few more lines in pencil.

The Yankees came in five miles of us, demolishing everything. Our own army broke us up in corn and meat--not leaving us more than 200 bushels of corn and 150 pounds of meat, and I can't get meat. We think it safest to send most of our men and boys to you and Sam, hoping you can make them useful this year at least. I know you will do all you can for us. It may yet be necessary for us all to leave home. We keep 20 workers and 15 head of horses and mules, and send you and Sam 10 workers and 10 mules to do the best you can with. In a word, you will do the best you can. Son, William, can tell you all about the matter.

Give our love to all. God bless you all.

In haste,

J. P. Welch

THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM MRS. SARAH CANTEY WHITAKER ALLEN'S BOOK, "OUR CHILDREN'S ANCESTRY":

After the war Dr. and Mrs. Welch, having lost all their possessions except land, started life anew, and managed to rear and educate their children. The letters that she wrote to her brothers were bright and cheerful and referred to each member of the family. They were always read with eager interest and enjoyment. Although Samuel E. Whitaker visited her several times in Mississippi, the writer (Sarah Cantey Whitaker Allen) remembers only one visit made by Mrs. Welch to Georgia, at which time she prided herself to be as attractive as her letters had indicated.

Upon moving to Mississippi Dr. Welch gave a portion of the land he had purchased to be used as a cemetery. On this land is a church called "Salem Baptist Church, and the graveyard which adjoins it is the Salem Cemetery". Here Martha Susan Whitaker Welch was buried. It is interesting to know that her husband, children and most of her children-in-law, were buried here also.

From an obituary written by W. D. Cameron, the following is taken:

"Martha Susan Welch died in her home at Alamucha, Mississippi on the 25th day of September, 1900.

Mrs. Welch, nee Miss Martha Susan Whitaker, was born in Washington County, near Milledgeville, Georgia, July 10, 1825 and was married to Dr. J.P. Welch in 1850, and settled in Alamucha, Mississippi in 1854.

It has been the privilege of the writer to know Mrs. Welch for half a century. In her life and character were found those beautiful traits, which made the pure and upright woman the most excellent handiwork of God. In her early life, when she possessed that beauty, grace, and elegance, embellished with literary and musical accomplishments, which render women attractive and lovely, though surrounded by wealth and splendor calculated to make an ordinary woman gaudy and vain, her companionship was sought and easily won by the humblest of her neighbors. Her sweet, captivating influence shed a ray of comforting light around the bedside of the sick and needy, and her bright vivacious face with her ringing laugh of happiness and contentment, ever made her the favored guest in all circles.

She was an untiring worker in her church and in all of her walks in life she endeavored to disseminate the principles of her religious faith.

She was the mother of a large family of devoted children. The beautiful manner in which she inculcated into their minds the principles of religious truth, justice, and right is a monument to her memory, which asserts itself. Her home was a paradise of love and comfort, until the ravages of the Civil War swept away a great fortune of wealth, which left her almost in abject poverty; but this cruel transition from affluence to poverty wrought no change in her humble cottage, doing her own work as when in her gilded home, surrounded by every convenience and luxury.

"From early childhood she consecrated her life to the service of her Savior, and no cloud of adversity or sorrow ever became so dark that she could not find a consoling ray of light through her faith in Him, whose comforting staff caused her to fear no danger while under the most turbulent storms of her long, useful life, a life which she had fulfilled. To her God's promise to David, "With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

For more than sixty years she was the pride and comfort by the side of her dear, faithful companion. She moved in her orbit with the steadiness of a star in its course; like to a liquid planet she lighted the earth beneath with the glorious shining of her setting of earth's golden sun, leaving nothing to her companion but the darkness of the pitiful sorrow which filled his heart; but, Thank God, through the rifts of that cloud of sorrow he beholds the heavenly sky, all radiant and glorious with the brightness of the morning's sun, which displays the pearly gates, through which his precious companion has just passed into those Elysian fields of perfect joy, where he and she will receive the profound reward of eternal happiness for their faithful pilgrimage on earth."

The children of Jacob Perry and Martha Susan Welch were:

1. Mary Cantey Welch, born in 1843, died in 1881.
2. Warren Perry Welch, born in 1884, died at the age of ten.
3. William Thomas Welch, born in 1847, died in 1927.
4. George Washington Welch, born in October, 1848, died in 1888.
5. Sara Crowell Welch, born in 1853 and died in 1924.
6. Jacob Warren Welch, born in 1855, died in 1914.
7. Martha Whitaker Welch, born in 1857, died in 1862.
8. Samuel Wiley Welch, born in 1859, died in 1926.
9. Eugenius Welch, born in 1862, died in 1892.
10. James Madison Welch, born in 1865, died in 1871

"AS WRITTEN BY MRS. SALLIE PATTON WHITAKER WELCH  
UPON JOINING THE DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY."

"I am the daughter of Mackerness Hudson Whitaker, who was Colonel of the 13th Mississippi Regiment. He served through the Divil War and was discharged from Barksdale's Division after the surrender in 1865.

I am the granddaughter of William Samuel Patton, who was Colonel of the 37th Mississippi Regiment.

I am a great-great-granddaughter of Dr. William Patton, who was surgeon during the War of 1812 under General Andrew Jackson.

I am a great-great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Patton, who served all through the War of Independence under Washington in 1776.

OBITUARY OF SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH FOR SISTER M. S. (Mrs. J. P.) WELCH:  
(Susan)

In memory of our dear Sister Martha<sup>S.</sup> Welch, who has departed this life, we write our thoughts of her noble example which is worthy of imitation. She was born July 10, 1925, died September 25, 1900, age 76 years, 1 month and 17 days. She was married to Dr. J. P. Welch in 1840 on Tuesday P.M., July 14, near Milledgeville, Baldwin County, Georgia. As a friend she won the confidence of all with whom she met; while with words and smiles she encouraged them to do the right. She was unselfish and true, noble in every walk of life, so gentle in influence that none would fail its power. In speaking of the good deeds of men and women, we hasten to say the best for her. We feel that no language be extravagant in telling of her sainted life. As we believe, one which was consecrated to God and His services, last in His will, ever rejoicing in the hope of Heaven. As a wife, we believe she proved faithful under all circumstances of life during her stay upon earth. She was quite kind and entrancing to those that God had committed to her care. She instructed them in the way of truth and righteousness and lived the proper life before them. now in glory intercedes with Jesus around His throne for her children, that He may be with them till we meet at His feet and greet them an abundant entrance into that house together with all others who believe His word and trust His grace prepared from the foundation of the world. And to your children who have suffered the greatest of earthly misfortunes, we invite you to look upward to the noble and exalted height upon which her life was cast. When the shadows of life shall fall about you, never forget that she is just over there waiting anxiously and lovingly for your coming to join her in that blissful land, where parting shall be no more. And as a christian, the last and best of all, we believe she did her best. We fail to find words to express that noble Christ like life, so gentle and kind, we all took notice that she had been with God. Through this unfriendly world, where hearts are wicked, she met them with a happy face and helped them to move out with better thoughts. May the Lord bless her noble life and help us all to forget self and press onward to meet at Jesus feet!

M. H. WHITAKER

Co K, 13 Miss. Inf.

1 Lieutenant Lt. Colonel

1 Lt. (Capt. S. J. Randell's Co. Miss. Vols.

This company was successively designated as Capt. Randell's Co., Miss. Volunteers, and as Capt. Randell's Co., (old) H., and (new) Co. K, 13th Regiment Miss. Inf.

The 13th Regiment Miss. Infantry was organized in May, 1861, of companies which had previously been in the State service and was mustered into the Confederate service for 12 months. About April 26, 1862, the regiment was re-organized and the letters of all companies changed.

Appears on Co. Muster Roll for March 30, 1861

Mustered into service:

When	March 30, 1861
Where	Marion Station
By whom	G. W. Spooner
<u>Age</u>	<u>26</u>

Appears on Regimental Return for the month of Nov., 1861

Station Leesburg, Va.

Appears on Regimental Return for the month of June, 1861

Station Union City, Tenn.

Appears on a "Record" of the Field, Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Staff of the organization from May 14, 1861, to March 1, 1865.

Residence Marion, Miss.

Married or single: Married

M. H. WHITAKER

Appears on a "Record" from May 14, 1861 to March 1, 1865 (under the head of, "Roster of Commissioned Officers.")

Record dated near Richmond, Va., March 1, 1865.

Appointment:

Date of                      May 14, 1861  
Authority of                President Davis

Commission Expired:

When                        May 18, 1861  
Cause                        Elected Lt. Coln. of Regt.

Appears on a "Record" from May 14, 1861, to March 1, 1865.

Record dated: Near Richmond, Va., March 1, 1865.

Enlisted:

When                        May 14, 1861  
Where                        Corinth  
Period                        12 months  
Born (State)                Ga.  
Occupation                 Lawyer  
Residence                  Marion  
Age when enlisted        26  
Married or single: Married  
Remarks:                  Elected Lt. Coln. and when Com. expired April 26, 1862, went home.

Engagements

Manassas, July 21, 1861    Absent on furlough or satisfactorily  
Leesburg, Oct. 21, 1861    Present and unhurt  
No. battled been through (1)  
Lt. Col. 13 Miss. Inf.  
Sgt. Co. K. 1 Eng. Troops

M. H. WHITAKER

Adjutant Co. K. 1 Eng. Troops

Voucher                      Officer Pay Account

Paid the 9th day of Sept. 1861

Lt. Col. M. H. Whitaker of the 13th Miss. Regt. C. S.

From the 14th day of June 1861 to the 30th day of June 1861

Pay \$101.97

Voucher for pay

14 May to 14 June, 1861	\$170.00
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voucher

From July 1, 1861 to July 31, 1861	\$170.00
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Appears on Company Muster Roll for March and April 1864.

Last Paid                      Never Paid

Remarks:                      Promoted to 1 Lieut. April 15, 1864.

The First Regiment Engineer Troops, C. S. A., completed its organization April 1, 1864, after having served for a few months under the command of Lieut. Col. Talcott. It was composed of 10 companies, A to K, formed under an Act of Congress approved March 20, 1864, which were composed of transfers from other organizations and of men assigned from various states, by special orders of the A. and I. G. O.

Lt. and Adj. 1 Reg't Engineer Troops

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll to April 30, 1864.

Station                      Near Orange C. H., Va.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll

Near Petersburg

Appears on an abstract of Payments made by D. A. Parker, A. Q. M., 1st. Regiment Engineer Troops, for the months of May, June, July,

M. H. WHITAKER

Parole of Honor that I will not hereafter serve in the Armies of the Confederate States, or in any military capacity whatever, against the United States of America or render aid to the enemies of the latter, until properly exchanged in such manner as shall be mutually approved by the respective authorities.

(Signed) M. H. Whitaker

Done at Meridian, Miss.            1st. Lt. and Corp. Eng. Troope  
this 12 day of May, 1865.            Confederate

Approved: by Colonel C. S. A.

Col. 26th. Wis. Vol. U. S. A.

The above named officer will not be disturbed by United States Authorities, as long as he observes his parole, and the laws in force where he resides.

Harry Becham

Col. 20th Wis. Vol.

Commissioner for the U. S.

Appointment of M. H. Whitaker to office of Drill Master with Rank of Captain. (Com. issued and sent by mail)

Executive Office

Jackson, Miss.

Oct. 29, 1862

M. H. Whitaker is hereby appointed Drill Master with the rank of Captain, is ordered to report to Brig. Genl. I. U. Harris of Columbus, Miss. for duty.

John I. Pettus

M. H. Whitaker

Marion, Lauderdale Cty., Miss

There are also two letters on file at the War Department, one

M. H. WHITAKER

A. S. Rives, act. chief of Eng. Bur., recommending that M. H. Whitaker be appointed Adjutant of the 1st. Regiment of Engineer troops.

Voucher No. 22

Paid the 12 day of Oct., 1864 From the 1st day of July, 1864  
to the 31st day of Aug., 1864. Pay \$220.00

Another voucher for \$100.00

Conscript at Camp Lee, Near Richmond, Va.

Enrolled Mch. 14, 1864

How disposed of Ass'd to 1st. Eng. Troops

When Mch. 15, 1864

There is also a record of M. H. Whitaker giving his oath to A. B. Ellis, Corpl. 1st. Eng. Regt., to become Lt. and Adjutant of the 1st Eng. Regt. Gave oath Oct. 7, 1864.

The War Department has eleven enclosures of M. H. Whitaker.

They are as follows:

1. Prisoner of War record
5. Duty
- 5 Pay or clothing

and August, 1864

Commencement From July 1, 1864

Expiration to Aug. 31, 1864.

Pay \$220.00

Appears on a Register of Appointments, Confederate States Army

State Miss.

To whom report 1 Regt. Eng. Troop

Date of appointment April 11, 1864

Date of confirmation May 26, 1864

To take rank April 5, 1864

Date of occupance April 15, 1864

Delivered Richmond

Secretary of War J. H. Seddon

Description:

Age 28 years; eyes dark; hair dark; complexion slightly dark;

5 feet 11 inches

Where born Georgia, Baldwin County

Occupation Lawyer

Enlisted:

When March 14, 1864

Where Miss.

By whom Rept. himself

Prisoner of War

No. 3890

"I, the undersigned, Prisoner of War, belonging to the Army of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, having been surrendered by Lt. Gen. R. Saylor, C. S. A. Commanding said Department, to Maj. Gen. E. R. S. Canby, U. S. A., Commanding Army Division of West Mississippi, do hereby give my solemn