

John Henry Stone and Martha Ann Baughn

by Catherine Bowers Southworth

This document is an excerpt from “Letters Home to Baughn’s Mountain” transcribed in 1979 by Ellen Flythe Frontis Cross, great-granddaughter of John Henry and Martha Ann Baughn Stone. Some of these letters are heart-wrenching; others are informational, yet all allow the reader to get a sense of what it was like in the camps during the war. The writers are John Henry Stone, who just wants to come home and Martha Ann’s brothers, Robert K., William G., Jeremiah M. (Jerry), John Davidson, and Henry Whitlow Baughn.

Stone Family

John Henry Stone, three of his brothers and several of his brothers-in-law, all participated in the Civil War. This is their story as told by their letters sent home. It was Martha Ann who saved these letters and passed them on to her daughter Ellen Stone Fagg.



John Henry Stone

John Henry Stone was the second son of 10 children born to John and Matilda Roberts Stone. He was born February 8, 1829 in Horsepasture, Virginia (now Spencer, Virginia). His parents moved to Rockingham County, North Carolina around 1840. Like his father, John Henry was a farmer. He married Martha Ann Baughn in September 6, 1859 in Stoneville, North Carolina. Their daughter, Ellen Euphelia Stone, was born December 10, 1860. Their son, Davis, was born, likely some time in 1862.

In September 1862, John Henry Stone was caught up in the General Conscription Act which called all men between the ages of 18 and 35. John Henry was 33 years old and because of “weak lungs” has was physically unfit for the rigors of camp life. He tried desperately to hire a substitute or get a medical discharge, but he failed. He was called up and put into Company F, 45th Regiment, NC Troops. He was sent to camp at Drewry’s Bluff, between Petersburg and Richmond, where his brothers-in-law John and Jerry Baughn were already stationed.

He wrote letters to his wife from Chesterfield County, Virginia, and later from Goldsboro, North Carolina.

This letter to Martha Ann is dated September 24, 1862, Camp Drewry’s Bluff, Va.

“My Dear Wife,

I have had a hard time since I wrote to you last. We had to march down toward Suffolk and then back to the Bluff. We was gone 9 days – marched through rain and mud and nothing to eat but crackers and broiled meat. I had the direarer 3 days before I got back to the camp but I feel a good deal better this morning. I had my likeness taken at Petersburg yesterday. I will send it to you first chance I get...



Martha Ann Baughn Stone and Ellen Stone

You must write to me ever chance you get. Tell Farther and Mother I send them my love to them and all the family. My dear Wife, I must close saying write to your Dear and effectionate Husband. Keep the little children for me.

I remain your effectionate Husband until Death,

J. H. Stone”

In this next letter John Henry writes to Martha Ann from Proctor’s Creek PO, Chesterfield Co, Virginia, dated October 10, 1862.

“... Martha Ann, John Baughn (Martha’s brother) is sick at Petersburg... Tell Pinckney I will give him and Dr. Scales one thousand dollars if they can come down and get a discharge for me because I dont think I can stand the army. I think if Dr. Scales would come down with Pinckney it would be the best chance to get me off... Pinckney’s situation is far different from mine and Francis. He can stay at home and take his rest and make money while your poor Husband has to labour under disease and live hard...”

Note: Pinckney and Francis Stone were two of John Henry’s brothers. They ran a general store in Mayo (now Stoneville), and later with another brother, Thomas Stone. Dr. Scales was the family physician.

In his November 23, 1862 letter from Camp Drewry’s Bluff, John Henry writes:

“... I cought a half galon of brandy at Petersburg yesterday at 8 dollars and I sold it for 12 dollars and 50 cents and took a good drink myself... Thire aint anybody that loves his wife and children better than I do mine.”

In his letter to his wife dated December 14, 1862, Drewry’s Bluff, Virginia, he says:

“I was hartly sorry to hear that Davis got badly scalded. I was uneasy about the children getting burnt before I heard of it. Martha Ann, I dont charge it to your neglect. I know you would of prevented it if you could. It stings me to the hart to hear of the sweet little things getting hurt.”

On January 25, 1863, from Goldsboro, North Carolina, he writes to his wife:

“I have bin vacinnated. My arm is about well now. I may take the smallpox and die but somehow I dont suffer any uneasiness about it. A man cant die untill his time comes.”

Eight days later, February 2, 1863, John Henry Stone, Private, Company F, 45th Regiment, NC Troops died at Goldsboro, NC. Martha Ann related later in life that her husband's body was delivered to her by wagon in the middle of the night. She had not known of his death until his body arrived at home. John's brother, Pinckney Stone paid fifteen dollars for taking the body of J.H. Stone home. For the expenses of the day, he paid ten dollars and for the cost of taking the corps to Greensboro (NC) six dollars and fifty cents. On Martha's pension application, she states that her husband died from an "impure" vaccination.



"Little Ellen" Stone (Fagg)

After her husband's death, Martha Ann experienced another loss. Her young son, Davis, also died. Family lore says he fell into the fireplace and was badly burned. She and her daughter, Ellen, moved back to her father's home on Baughn's Mountain.

Martha Ann never remarried after the death of her husband. She supported her daughter, Ellen, by teaching school near "the mountain." After her daughter married, she moved to Leaksville (now Eden), North Carolina, and lived with her and her family until she died on July 16, 1921, in Leaksville, North Carolina.

John Henry Stone's Brothers



Martha Ann "Mammy" Stone

In Captain R. S. Williams of Company I recounting of the activities of some of the Rockingham County soldiers, he includes this account of William (Willie) Stone, the younger brother of John Henry, Francis J., and Pinckney (P.M.) Stone. "Willie Stone of Company H was lying on the field next moaning seemingly dead. The ball went in at one temple just behind his eyes and out the other. His eyes were both pushed out of their sockets. We marched that day down to the Chickahominy River. We left Stone lying on the ground. It was Saturday morning when we left; the battle was Friday evening. Wednesday following the man who owned the place went back to his home to see what had been done by the army. He heard a strange noise in the swamp. When he went down there he found young Stone crawling through the thicket hunter for water.

Stone had revived and found that his eyes were out and took his fingers and put them back, but he was blind. F. J. Stone at Stoneville, NC is his brother."

Neither John Henry nor Pinckney (P.M.) nor Francis had gone into the army when this tragedy occurred, but all went in soon after.

On July 3, 1862, Pinckney Stone was in Richmond and found his brother William in the hospital and in a letter to his brother, John Henry Stone, he writes:

“Dear Brother, I take the opportunity to inform you all that I have found brother William badly wounded in head but gradually improving. I have got him in the Chimborazo Hospital and is getting good attention. I shall stay with him till he gets able to move... Yours respectfully P.M. Stone”

According to his tombstone, Willie Stone died on July 22, 1862 “at Gaines Mill.” From P. M. Stone’s note, however, it seems he actually died of his head wound in the hospital in Richmond.

Baughn Family

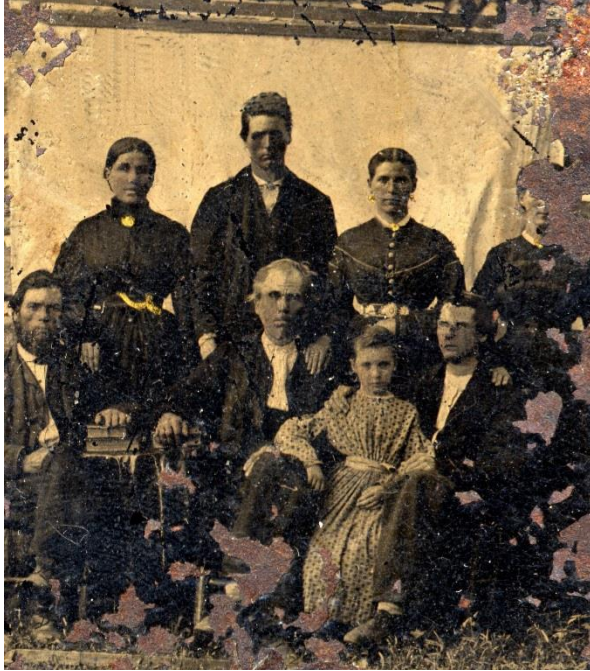


Tintypes of William Baughn and Besty Hopper Baughn, parents of Martha Ann Baughn Stone



Martha Ann was the oldest child of Captain William Baughn and his wife Elizabeth “Betsy” Hopper Baughn. (His title must have been from being in the local militia.) They lived on “Baughn’s Mountain” in Rockingham County, North Carolina. William Baughn’s father, Henry Baughn, farmed in Rockingham County when he first purchased land in 1797. He then purchased 262 acres near the Mayo River in 1814 where he built a home on the “summit” he called “Cedar Point.” Henry Baughn and his wife, Martha Whitlow Baughn, raised 14 children.

In April, 1861, companies were organized in Rockingham County, NC. Captain Baughn’s sons, Robert and William, were the first of his sons to volunteer. They believed they were enlisting for a 12 month stint, but soon became apparent it would last much longer. Robert served with the 13th Regiment, NC Troops, for the entire war. William was dead by June 1862.



Tintype of William Baughn's family.

William G. Baughn died June 10, 1862 at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. The cause of death was "Cont. fever." In August, Capt. William Baughn qualified as Administrator of his son's estate and was paid \$158.66 by the Comptroller's Office of the Confederate States.

In March of 1862, two more Baughn brothers, John Davidson and Jeremiah (Jerry), volunteered and went into the newly formed 45th Regiment, NC Troops. They joined Company D under Captain John L. Scales. Jerry survived but John did not. Jerry and John were under the command of Lt. Col. Jas. T. Morehead of the 53rd Regiment. The regimental history states they fought in the battle of "The Wilderness" of which they survived. Jerry was sent to Winder Hospital in Richmond. John fought on through July when his name is on a receipt for clothing,

and is assumed to be present for the battle of Cold Harbour on July 3. Sometime in October 1864, John D. Baughn was taken prisoner. He is listed on his company rolls as "Prisoner of War" from then until the end of the war. His name appears on the Roll of Honor. It is not know where or when John died but he never returned home.

When Henry Baughn, Jr. turned 18 in the spring of 1864, he too volunteered and was sent first to Richmond, Virginia, then to Petersburg, Virginia.

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Stone Family Members

John Stone (1795-1872) and Matilda Roberts Stone (1805-1885)

Their children:

- James Madison Stone (1826-1856)
- John Henry Stone (1829-1863)

Co. F, 45th Regiment North Carolina Infantry, Private. The muster roll for September and October shows he was “conscripted” on September 1, 1862. For November and December, 1862, he was listed as “Present.” The muster roll for January and February states that he was at Drewry’s Bluff under the command of Capt. Winston. It also states he died February 2, 1863, Goldsboro (NC).

- Thomas Roberts Stone (1832-1860)
- Pinckney Marion Stone (1833-1874)
- Francis Joyce Stone (1835-1904)
- Elizabeth A “Bettie” Stone (1838-1917)
- William Jefferson Stone (1840-1862)
- Jackson Lafayette Stone (1842-1918)
- Washington Franklin Stone (1846-1902)
- Sarah Ann “Loula” Stone (1849-1922)

Baughn Family Members

Captain William R. Baughn (abt 1805-abt 1878) and Elizabeth “Betsy” Hopper Baughn (abt 1810-bef 1870)

- Martha Anne (1833-1921) married John Henry Stone
- Robert K. Baughn (1838-1900)
- John Davidson Baughn (1840-1862)

He enlisted as a Private on March 11, 1862 at Springarden, was mustered in at Camp Mangum, NC. Company D, 45th Infantry Regiment, NC. He was 22 years old and 6 feet tall, a farmer. The September-December 1862 muster rolls indicates he was “absent, on Hospital, Petersburg (VA).” In 1863 he had been present except once when he was “sick.” On November 16, 1863 he complained of “Abscessus.” He was back on duty by November 24. The muster rolls for

September-December 1864 and January-February 1865 lists John as “Absent, Prisoner of War.”

- William G. Baughn (1842-1863)
- Jeremiah M. “Jerry” Baughn (1842-1924)

Jerry volunteered and enlisted as a Private on March 11, 1862 at Springarden was mustered in at Camp Mangum, NC. Company D, 45th Infantry Regiment, NC. He was 19 years old, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, a farmer.

He was “Present” until August 11, 1862, when he appears on the register of Episcopal Church Hospital in Williamsburg, VA. He complained of “Diarrhaea.” On the September-October 1862 muster roll, he is “Absent sick (at Bluff), likely Drewry’s Bluff. On November 6, 1862, he appeared on the Medical Record’s Office, Richmond, VA and returned to duty on November 10, 1862.

By June 1863, Jerry is “in Hospital Danville VA.” His records also state he was admitted and appeared on the register of General Hospital, No. 9, Richmond, V on June 15. On June 16, he appears on the register of Chimborazo Hospital, No. 9, Richmond, VA. Remarks: “Danville 17 June, 63.” He has a fever. On July 21-30 he is admitted to Chimborazo Hospital, No. 9, Richmond, VA with a complaint of “Diarrhaea.” On the July-August muster roll, he is “Absent, At Home on sick furlough.” On the September-October muster roll, Jerry continues to be on furlough. On the November-December 1863 muster roll, he is “Absent, Sick in Hospital.”

Jerry is back in action until May 13 1864 when he is found in General Hospital, Camp Winder, in Richmond, VA. One source says he was wounded at Spotsylvania Court House, Va.

In August he appears on a “Receipt Roll” for clothing at Winder.

September-December shows him back on the battlefield. In January-February, 1865 he is again “Absent, on furlough.”

On May 5, 1865, Jeremiah’s name appears on the list of Confederate soldiers who were included in the surrender of General R. E. Lee to Grant, and received a pardon.

- Henry Whitlow Baughn (1845-1919)
- Nancy E. “Nannie” Baughn (1848-)
- Richard Alexander “Dick” Baughn (1849-1935)

Fagg Family Members

Ellen Stone married James Buchanan “Bud” Fagg in 1885. They lived in Leaksville (now Eden), North Carolina, until they died. Bud owned a general merchandise store and was the postmaster there. He died in 1940 and Ellen died in 1951. They raised four daughters (Ruby Ellen, Nellie Blanche, Martha Gertrude, and Hilda Jane) and two sons (Harry Lee and James Buchanan, Jr.).



Ellen Stone Fagg and J. B. Fagg