

## Captain Henry Clay Bartlett Post 39

### Captain Henry Clay Bartlett- Biographical Summary

Birth: Apr. 13, 1830 at Stanhope, Sussex County, New Jersey

Death: May 8, 1864 at Dug Gap, Whitfield County, Georgia

Stockbroker, lawyer and Civil War military commander, born at Stanhope, New Jersey, Henry Clay Bartlett spent several years attending Reverend David Francis' school at West Bloomfield (Montclair), NJ. He was preparing for admittance to The College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) and he was successful, entering as a sophomore. Bartlett studied law, graduating in 1847, a member of the "Centennial Class". He then embarked on a successful career in the banking and the brokerage business. On January 13, 1854, Bartlett was married to Mary E. Russell (abt 1838-1869). The couple had four daughters: Genevieve, Minnie, Lydia and Josephine (named in honor of General Joseph Hooker.) Bartlett retired before he was 30 and spent a year in Texas, before making his residence in Centerville, Livingston, Essex County, NJ (now Roseland), where a street was named in his honor. When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Bartlett raised a company of soldiers at Caldwell Township, NJ that became Company C of the Seventh Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. The men of Company C, primarily friends, neighbors and relatives, elected Bartlett as their Captain and were mustered in together at Newark, Essex County, NJ on September 18, 1861. Captain Bartlett and his company of Caldwell men served in the Army of the Potomac, participating in most of the battles fought in Virginia. Captain Bartlett commanded his men in the seven days' fight before Richmond, Virginia, and was praised for gallantry. His health failing, Captain Bartlett resigned his commission on January 16, 1863 and returned to his family who lived on Harrison Avenue at Roseland. Captain Bartlett's desire to serve his country was undiminished and seven months later he reenlisted and was commissioned captain in Company G of the 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers. On May 8, 1864, while leading a force against the Confederate's works on Rocky Face Ridge at Mill Creek Gap ("Dug Gap") near Dalton, Georgia, Captain Bartlett was mortally wounded by a sniper as he stormed the last crest. Local German farmers, Edward (1816-1899) and Sophia Valentine Freylach (1805-1871), tried in vain to care for Captain Bartlett at their farmhouse located at the foot of the mountain. Captain Bartlett died that night, on their front porch. He was only thirty-four years old.

Captain Bartlett had joined Essex Lodge #59 Free & Accepted Masons at Caldwell, NJ on August 9, 1863. Because he carried Masonic emblems, he was given a Christian burial on the Freylach farm. Some sources claim that one of the Freylach sons, Edward W. (1847-1903), was so impressed by the Masonic emblems that he became a life-long Mason, too. The Freylach farm was sold to the Rymans after whom a private gated community, Ryman Farms, was named. Capt. Bartlett's grave is believed to lie along a road, with no marker to memorialize his death.

After the Civil War ended, Capt. Bartlett's comrades from Caldwell Township as well as other area veterans, honored his memory by establishing the Captain Henry Clay Bartlett

Post #39 of the Grand Army of the Republic. This GAR Post flourished until the last of its members passed away in the 1930's. Roseland has not forgotten Capt. Bartlett. The town named Bartlett Court in his honor.

Gary Abrams, a NYC fireman and member of Company G of the Thirty-Third Regiment, NJ Volunteer Infantry, a Civil War re-enactor, became interested in researching the lives of the men in the original Company G of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. Phil Collins, a direct descendant of Capt. Bartlett, has provided a wealth of family history, including this portrait of Capt. Bartlett. In consultation with local historians and records of the Dalton Georgia area, Abrams has located some possible sites for Bartlett's grave. In December, 2008 he used ground penetrating radar to further explore the area and he plans to return to the region for additional surveys later in 2009. Collins and his family would like to see Capt. Bartlett's remains returned to New Jersey and buried at Caldwell."

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Phil Collins  
Descendent of Capt. Bartlett

Gary Abrams

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