

MEMBER ANCESTRY

Garland Worthington Archer is a member of the Brunswick Civil War Round Table. As part of our outreach, to learn more about relatives who participated in the civil war, he shared a story about one of his relatives, William Worthington, who served as an officer in the confederate cavalry. Some of Lt. Worthington's experiences are contained in a paper written by his commanding officer, "Reminiscences of a Cavalryman". I thought I would give you a short history of Garland's family and a few interesting outtakes from the article. Feel free to talk to Garland about his relatives at our meeting or by email. (garlandarcher@yahoo.com)

One branch of the Worthington family came to America in 1640 from Lancaster, England and settled in Connecticut. Another branch settled in Maryland in the late 1600's. Members of his family served in the colonial army during the American Revolution and one family member was a distant relative of James Madison. In subsequent years, the Worthington family tree spread throughout the eastern and southern part of, what is now, the United States.

Garland's immediate branch of the family came from Maryland, and settled in the Mississippi delta. He is a direct descendent of William Worthington whose family were plantation owners in Washington County, Mississippi, which is to the north and east of Vicksburg. William Worthington began his civil war service as an officer in Co. H, 1st Mississippi Cavalry, commanded by Captain William Montgomery.

Captain Montgomery described his wartime experiences, which include William Worthington, in a paper he wrote for the Washington County Historical Society, after the war. The paper covers the exploits of the 1st Mississippi at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta and the Middle Tennessee Campaigns. In Tennessee, they served under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest, the "wizard of the saddle". The article tells stories of the deaths of friends in battle, who had their clothing and shoes stripped from the bodies, because the soldiers lacked their own. He also tells stories of the lighter moments they experienced in this trying period of the war.

It is always interesting to listen to someone talk about the big picture of a battle in a meeting, but it can be equally interesting to learn about the personal experiences of the various troops that participated in the war.