

Benjamin Weaver Letters

Benjamin Putnam Weaver and Mary Jane Maguire Descendants

Benjamin Putnam WEAVER (b 06 June 1831 Gwinnett County Georgia - d 30 Nov 1864 Franklin, Tennessee in the Civil War Battle of Franklin, TN. He is buried in the Confederate Cemetery, Murfreesboro Cemetery, near Franklin, Tennessee) Benjamin Putnam Weaver was a Captain in Company B, 42nd Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army (CSA).

married 30 Jan 1851 Gwinnett County Georgia

Mary Jane MACGUIRE (b 22 Aug 1832 Gwinnett County Georgia - d 28 Mar 1913 Alabama) Mary Jane was the daughter of Thomas Maguire and Jane ANDERSON.

They had 4 children

1. Mary Elizabeth Eleanor WEAVER (b 1851 Gwinnett Co - d 1906 Milton Co Georgia buried at Old Big Creek Cemetery) married 24 Dec 1865 Gwinnett County Georgia Milton Hampton TRAMMELL (b 14 June 1836- Milton Co Georgia - d 17 Feb 1915 Milton Co. Georgia, buried at Old Big Creek Cemetery)

2. Thomas (Tommy) David Dawson WEAVER (b 1852 - d Arkansas)

3. Reuben (Ratty) Lycurgas Cincinnatus WEAVER (b 06 Sept - 1854 - d 1909 Walton Co. buried at Moore cemetery) Ratty was Postmaster at Caleb, Georgia from 1896 to 1903 after which the Post Office was discontinued. He was also the Mayor of Loganville, Georgia. At his death the Loganville newspaper stated that "it was the longest funeral procession ever seen in Loganville". In 1907 the mercantile corporation of Weaver, Tuck and Co. was organized [sic] with RLC WEAVER as president, which position he held at his death. He was also a director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and was largely instrumental in the up building of that institution. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge. married Angeline HENRY

4. John Jefferson Putnam (Put) WEAVER (b 1861 Gwinnett County, Georgia - d 1944 Alabama) John was a conductor on the Georgia Pacific Railroad and lived on Marietta Street in Atlanta, Georgia in the late 1800's. The family moved to Collinsville, Alabama where they appear in the 1900 Cleburen County Alabama Census. married 1884 Dora Augusta ADERHOLD

Newspaper Article about Benjamin Weaver letters
March to Gadsden, Mountain

Dixie Captain's Letters Tell Of War Hardships

By FRANCES UNDERWOOD Times Staff Writer

[photo with caption: CAPT. B.P. WEAVER... Southern leader]

Family records of Grady M. Weaver, 1107 Walnut Street, Gadsden, have been kept in a leather-bound Bible, King James version, published in 1829. In this Bible, it is revealed that Benjamin Putnam Weaver, grandfather of the Gadsden man, was born June 6, 1831, and married Mary June Maguire, Jan. 30, 1851. He became a captain on the Confederate side during the War Between the States.

Letters written by Capt. Weaver have been well preserved and are voluminous with information about the courage of the Confederate soldier and his ability to endure hardships. Capt. Weaver was with the 42nd Georgia Volunteers, Company B and led his men throughout the four years, until he was killed at Franklin, Tenn., on Nov. 30, 1864.

Excerpts of these letters written in November of 1864, to his wife whom he called "Jenny," to tell in detail of the march of his men to Gadsden and on to Sand Mountain.

The first of these letters was dated Nov. 3, 1864 and says in part:

Dear Jenny:

I once more write a few lines in the hope that it may reach you. We have been marching ever since we overtook the Brigade so I have had no chance to write you. I was 15 days on the road before I overtook them at Gadsden, Ala. We then marched eight days at an average of 20 miles a day and reached the Tennessee River, attacked the Yanks by shelling across the river...the cowardly scamps ran like Old Nick was after them.

We then crossed the river in small boats and took possession of the town and here we are yet. We are now in the extreme northwest corner of Alabama. I saw many strange sights on our march and many Tories.

We were two days and a half crossing Sand Mountain which is a strange country, many places level and such rich land and has large streams of water flowing high up on the mountain. We marched 200 miles in 10 days without rest. Found your Uncle David's boy, Eli, at Gadsden and have him with me here. He is well and anxious to get home where he can get more to eat.

My company is in fine health. Some of them are barefooted but still in good spirits. This march has nearly worn out my shoes. No chance to get shoes or anything else.

The citizens fairly shouted when we marched up in town for they did not know we were in this country until we began to shell the Yanks. I can't tell where we will go next, but I don't think we will remain here long. I hope this move of ours will cause the Yanks to leave Atlanta and our state entirely.

He wrote again on Nov. 13, 1864 and this was the last letter he ever wrote as he was killed in battle on the last day of that month. This letter was written from Camp near Florence, Ala.

In this letter, he still was hoping for news from Atlanta that was reliable. He said:

“We suffer cold here as we have no tents and but few blankets. We will not remain here many days. I cannot tell you but I think we will go toward Nashville.” Once again he described Sand Mountain, which he called a strange country and told of the people whom he believed to be Tories. He described the rations as being only corn bread and jerked beef...except for forage in the country. Once in while they got a goat or mutton. His closing lines were his wish that he could hear that the accursed Yanks had left his beloved Atlanta and to give his best love to all the children.

In one of his first letters, he wrote that he believed the “Confederates were seeing some hardships that will equal those of our forefathers in the old revolution but if we can liberate the South and once more see it free we will be satisfied to endure still more.”

[photo: picture of Benjamin Putnam Weaver]