

## John Gamble, Captain, Co. H, 33 AL Infantry, CS

1833 John Gamble born to Charles and Elizabeth Jordan Gamble in Jefferson County, GA.

1840 The U.S. Census Enumerated in Jefferson County, GA showed Charles Gamble as the head of household. All eight members of the Gamble family were listed as well as the thirteen slaves owned by the Gamble family.

\*\*\*between 1840 and 1844 the Gamble family migrated to Macon County, AL.\*\*\*

March 25: Charles M. Gamble was commissioned as Justice of the Peace in Macon County, AL.

1850 September 27: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Macon County, AL showed seventeen year old John living with his parents and siblings. His father had no occupation listed. John was listed as a student. The Gamble family owned fourteen slaves.

1854 Gamble's father John died in Lowndes County, AL. He was only forty-six years old.

1860 August 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Butler County, AL showed John, a lawyer, and his brother Charles, a merchant, living in a boarding house owned by a doctor. Gamble's widowed mother Elizabeth was living in Lowndes County. Her occupation was listed as planter. The Gamble family owned twenty-five slaves.

1861 Jne 6: Gamble's younger brothers, Matthew and Robert, enlisted in the C.S. Army in Greenville, Butler County, AL. They both mustered into Co. A, 9th AL Infantry.

1862 April 3 Enlisted in the C.S. and mustered into Co. H, 33 AL Infantry.

July 10: Promoted to Lieutenant.

1863 January & February: Company Muster Roll. Present. Remarks "Sick in camp."

March & April: Company Muster Roll. Present. Remarks "E. Duty Commissary Department."

May thru October: Company Muster Rolls. Present.

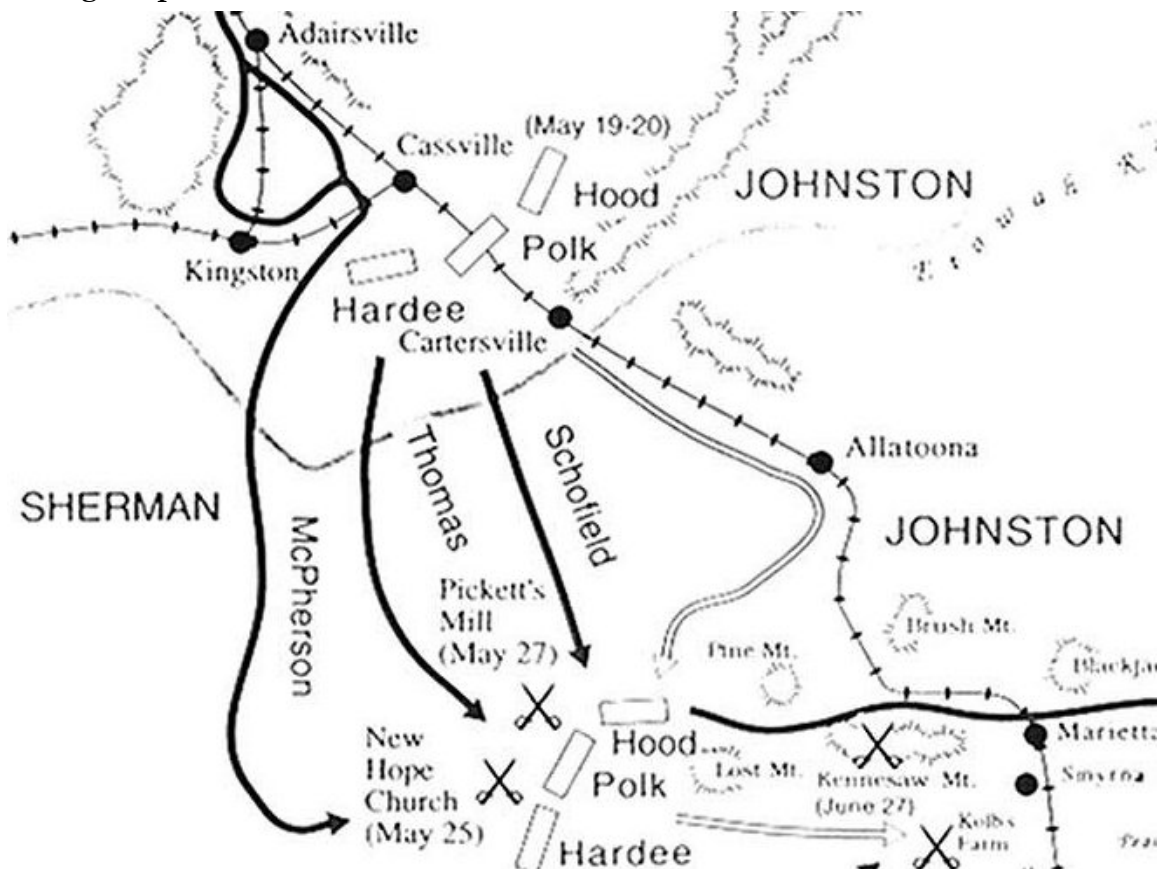
July 2: Brother, Robert Gamble, was captured at Gettysburg and sent to Johnsons' Island in Ohio.

\*\*\*by this time John Gamble's signature shows up on various requisitions as "John Gamble 1st Lieut. Commd. Co."\*\*\*

November & December: Company Muster Roll. Absent. Remarks "E.D. Purchasing cattle for division. Order of Genl Harden Dec 7/63."

November 3: Brother, Robert Gamble, died in prison and was "buried on the Island."<sup>1</sup>

1864 May 27: Wounded at the Battle of Pickett's Mill. Gamble was at a hospital through September.



<sup>1</sup>Gamble, Robert, 9th Infantry, Alabama, CSR, pg. 11, (accessed fold3.com)

November 30: Gamble had returned to his regiment by November and fought at the Battle of Franklin in Cleburne's division attacking the main US line against the Carter family cotton gin.

December 1: Gamble penned a letter home to his future wife.

*In the field near Franklin, TN*

*December 1st, 1864*

*Dear Sallie,*

*Bivouacked on the bloodiest battlefield field of the war. I am favored with the opportunity of responding to your very interesting and highly appreciated letter of the 10th of Nov'r, which was received on the march on the 25th of the same month while near Columbia Tennessee. I return thanks to the Lord of Hosts that I am the object so far as his preserving care and watchfulness for it does seem and really is miraculous that any one has escaped in the last Battle.*

*The scene of the dead dying and wounded on the Battlefield here, beggars description. On the 29th our Division overtook the enemy at Spring Hill, Rutherford County,<sup>2</sup> Tennessee and after a short but very desperate engagement succeeded in driving them from their works which were only temporary and pursuing them closely indeed so much that they were compelled to halt and [??] to check our too rapid advance. They had constructed their lines of breastworks at this place which therefore offered greater advantages than any other place this side of Nashville, They therefore made a very stubborn stand, and in the afternoon of the 30th our troops were hurriedly put in position and an attack was ordered and then followed the most desperate fighting and the worst wholesale slaughter that I ever witnessed or heard of we lost seven brigadier Generals (namely Strahl, Granbury, Sears, Shelley, Gordon, Gist and Adams)<sup>3</sup> and Major Genl Cleburne from our loss in general officers which is unequalled in any Battle of ancient or modern wars. You may very reasonably infer that our loss in Inferior Officers and men was immense. I do not think five thousand will cover the loss in the five divisions engaged. No one can ever contemplate the carnage, much less interpret it without almost exclaiming that there are no circumstances which would justify a war. May Heaven speed the time when we shall see the dawn of Peace once more and when such heart rending scenes as the Battlefield of Franklin Tenn suggests shall cease but enough of this. We drove the Yankees from their works and in the morning at 6 ½ "oclock" we (being the rear of the army) follow on in pursuit and in a few days from now will doubtless have another Engagement. May Heaven forbid*

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<sup>2</sup> Incorrect County.

<sup>3</sup> Gamble listed some generals that were wounded and captured as well, not just killed.

that we should suffer so seriously again within the next two days we will in all probability reach Nashville Tennessee which is only twenty-two miles from this place and there again it is very probably we will be compelled to fight Genl Hood seems determined to redeem Tennessee and everything bids fair for us to winter in this state of rare abundance, such being the case in communications with the dear ones at home and cherished friends will necessarily be very irregular and uncertain..."

1865 Gamble surrendered, not with his regiment, but in Montgomery, AL.

**Headquarters 16th Army Corps,**  
OFFICE PROVOST MARSHAL,  
MONTGOMERY, ALA., May 24 1865.

I, the undersigned J. Gamble  
Capt. H. 33. Ala. Inf.

**DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR** that I will not bear arms against the United States of America, or give any information, or do any military duty whatever, until regularly exchanged as a prisoner of war.

J. Gamble Capt  
H. 33. Ala. Inf.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Height, 6 feet, \_\_\_\_\_ inches. Hair, Dark Eyes, Grey  
Complexion, Fair

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I certify that the above parole was given by me on the date above given, and the above named J. Gamble will not be disturbed by United States authorities so long as he observes the conditions of his parole, and the laws and regulations in force where he resides.

**BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL A. J. SMITH.**

J. A. Gault  
Capt. 72d Ills. Inf., and Asst. Provost Marshal.

September 3: Gamble married Sarah "Sally" Bond in Pike County, AL.

1870 June 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Greenville, Butler County, AL showed John, a lawyer, and Sally living with their two young children: John and Lula.

1878 April:

**Col. John Gamble.**

*Editor Advertiser:* Who is the probable man to enter the national councils in the place of the distinguished Herbert is the all absorbing inquiry in the second district—and it is well that we should be aroused on the subject, and that the press should draw the minds of the people to a consideration of the merits of the suitable man, so that the importance of selecting the right man may be fully understood and none other selected.

The strongest man in popular favor is he who as yet has not been mentioned by the press, but who is often revolved in the minds of an army of acquaintances, friends and admirers. We believe that this man, Col. John Gamble of Butler, can influence the largest vote of any man in this district. He is more favorably known than any other man residing in it. For in Butler, Covington and Crenshaw counties he would have in the convention an undivided strength, and in Conecuh, Escambia and Baldwin his strength is equal to any other man. Hence, with such an out-look, what of this man? He is kind, genial and generous, of mature years, of sound judgment, untiring in his labors, an enthusiastic patriot, an eloquent and impressive orator, a learned and skillful lawyer, a Christian of humble yet sincere purpose, whose strength of mind and skill in debate, whose energy in labors and fidelity to the interest of our country would do much, very much, toward that reform in the National Administration so long hoped for by the people of the South.

SECOND DISTRICT.  
April 11, 1878.

May 28: Gamble's wife Sally died and was buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Butler County, AL.

1880 June 12: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Greenville, Butler County, AL showed a widowed John, a lawyer, living with his children and his niece Joe Graham. Living with the family was an African American cook named Mary and her children.

1881 February 27: Gamble married Joe E. Graham.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, Sunday 14 Apr 188, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)

Note: many articles refer to John Gamble as "Colonel," he was a Captain.

<sup>5</sup> Josephine E. Graham was the daughter of Matilda Bond Graham, his first wife's sister.

Hon. John Gamble.  
 Luverne Enterprise.

Seeing that noble Democrat, John Gamble, Sr., of Greenville, in the city reminded us of his past services. He is now getting to where he is perhaps on the downward road of life—this, however, man cannot tell. He has battled for Democracy since the days of reconstruction, and what is remarkable has never yet asked for position for himself. Now some of his friends say they are going to make him judge of the second circuit.—Troy Messenger.

Crenshaw county naturally feels an interest and just pride in the eminence attained by John Gamble in the legal profession. To-day he ranks second to no lawyer in South-east Alabama. For twenty years it is said, he has not missed attending court in most of the counties in the second judicial circuit. His absence would now be as marked as the Judge or Solicitor. He is hale, active, and we think even can say without disparagement to any others, that he enjoys the best all-round practice of any lawyer in the

State. We claim John Gamble, a "Crenshaw county boy." Years ago his father settled in the north end of this county while he was a very small lad, and lived for years at what is now known as the "Gamble Place." This home he left to try his fortune at the law, over twenty-five years ago, and with what success his brothers at the bar will testify. He has always been a friend to the young struggling lawyer, and will always be remembered by the officers of the courts of the second judicial circuit for many kindnesses, and suggestions made to them in the starting of their official career.

Butler county now claims John Gamble, but with our esteemed contemporary above, we rise to admire that "noble old Democrat" and claim him as a Crenshaw county plant and we only express the common sentiment of his friends in southeast Alabama in saying a life given entirely to the practice of the law ought now to be honored by his election to the Judgeship of the second judicial circuit.

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1896 December 27: John Gamble died in Butler County, AL. He was buried in Magnolia Cemetery.



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<sup>6</sup> The Weekly Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, Thursday, 14 May 1891, g. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>7</sup> Magnolia Cemetery, Butler County, AL, user submitted photo/Sarah Sexton Miller, findagrave.com

## GREENVILLE.

### The Town and State Lost a Good Citizen in the Death of Col. John Gamble.

Greenville, Dec. 28.—(Special.)—On yesterday morning Col. John Gamble of this city breathed his last. Colonel Gamble has been in failing health for the past two years and his death, though rather sudden, was not unexpected. By his death, Greenville has lost one of her best and oldest citizens. Coming here just before the war he has resided here continuously with the exception of the four years he spent in fighting the battles of his country.

Though he seldom spoke of it, Col. Gamble's war record was one of which any man might well be proud. He was a brave soldier and commanded the respect and love of the men he led to battle.

Early in life, Col. Gamble adopted the law as his profession and soon came to the front in it. Possessed of a magnificent intellect and of commanding presence, he soon became one of the most prominent lawyers in South Alabama. For more than thirty years he has practiced in the Counties of South Alabama and during that time met some of the greatest lawyers of the State, all of whom bore testimony to his great legal ability. As a criminal lawyer he stood in the front rank, and during his time probably defended more capital cases than any other lawyer in the State, and with marked success. He has practiced through a large number of counties in South Alabama and his name is now and will be a household word in them for years to come.

Though possessed of rare intellectual gifts, Col. Gamble never held any office of a political nature, with the exception of being a member from this county of the Constitutional Convention of 1875. As a member of that convention he helped to frame the present constitution of the State.

Early in life he became a member of the Missionary Baptist Church and he has always been prominently and actively identified with the work of that denomination. He was one of the oldest members of the church here. There are few of the old members left. The church and Sunday School sincerely mourn his loss.

Col. Gamble was twice married, his last wife being Miss Joe Graham, of Orion, Pike county. She and five sons and one daughter survive him.

In the domestic circle, Col. Gamble was all that a loving husband and an affectionate indulgent father could be. All was centered in home and the welfare and happiness of his family were his chief thoughts. Of an apparently rough exterior, he was as tender at heart as a child. Those who knew him best bear strongest testimony to this. His wife and children loved him deeply and on them his death falls heavily indeed.

Today the last sad rites were performed over him and his body was consigned to the grave. The funeral services were conducted at the Baptist Church by Rev. W. D. Hubbard, his pastor, who paid a glowing tribute to his worth. Col. Gamble had long been a member of the Masonic Lodge here. They turned out in a body to the funeral and he was buried with Masonic honors. The members of the bar met and attended the funeral in a body. The pall-bearers were selected from them and were Judge J. L. Powell, Capt. Ed Crenshaw, Judge L. M. Lane, Hons. J. C. Richardson, H. B. Piley, and C. E. Hamilton. A large number of relatives and friends attended the funeral.

He has a brother, Wm. Gamble, and a sister, Mrs. J. T. May, living in Montgomery.

<sup>8</sup> The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, Tuesday, 29 Dec 1896, pg. 3 (Accessed newspapers.com)