

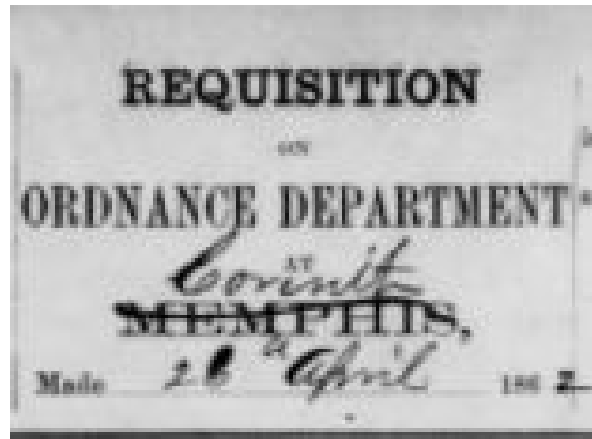
### **Matthew Barrow Pilcher, Captain, F&S, 1st TN Infantry, CSA**

- 1840 Apr 1: Matthew Barrow Pilcher was born to parents Meritt and Nancy Pilcher in Davidson County, TN.
- 1850 Oct 21: The US Federal Census enumerated in Davidson County, TN listed Matthew B. Pilcher's family lived in the household of Matthew Barrow, aged 65, and his wife. Matthew B. Pilcher would have been about ten years old. His father, Meritt, and mother, Nancy, were listed but Matthew's name does not appear. Perhaps the census taker misunderstood or recorded a name or age incorrectly.
- 1859 Matthew Pilcher was a member of the Tennessee militia. He was in the "Rock City Guards." The militia system in slaveholding states had become drastically more active after John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry Arsenal that attempted to spark a slave revolt.
- 1861 May 10: The "Rock City Guards" were mustered into the Confederate Army at Nashville, TN for a period of 12 months. Those men comprised companies A, B, and C of the 1st TN Infantry. Matthew was mustered into Co. B, 1st TN Infantry as 3rd Sergeant.

<sup>1</sup> Confederate Veteran Magazine, 1909.

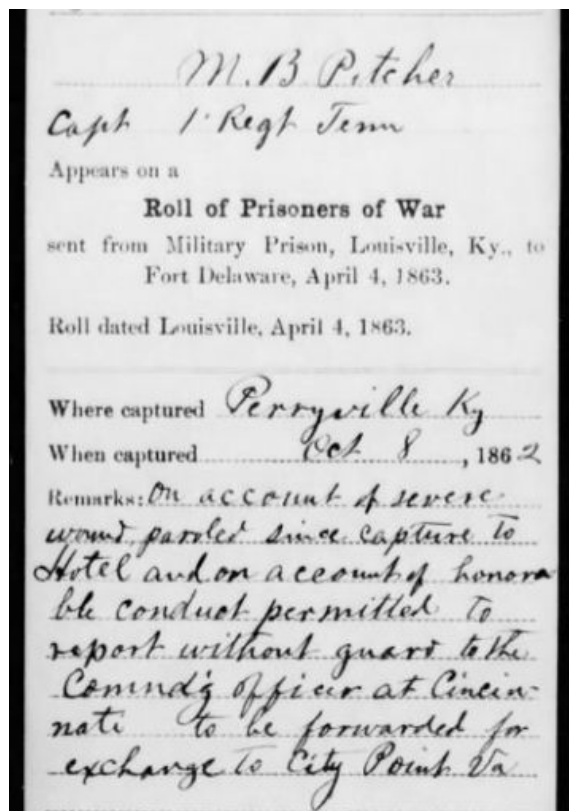
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14719021/matthew-barrow-pilcher>

1862 Apr 26: Matthew signed a requisition order at Corinth, MS for 494 canteens for the men of the 1st TN Infantry. The 1st TN Infantry was in combat at Shiloh earlier that month and had retreated to Corinth to recuperate along with the rest of the Army of Mississippi.



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Oct 8: Wounded at the Battle of Perryville, KY, captured and sent to Cincinnati as a prisoner of war. Interestingly, after his imprisonment, Pilcher was paroled to a hotel in Cincinnati "on account of severe wound" and, "on account of honorable conduct," he was allowed to report without guard to the commanding officer at Cincinnati.



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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/67187286>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/67187247>

1863 Appeared on muster roll for Jan-Feb: Remarks, "absent, wounded at Perryville"

Mar-Apr: Remarks "Absent sick"

May 5: Capt. M.B. Pilcher was exchanged at City Point, VA. He was put on a train to TN but the train derailed near Bristol, TN and Matthew's arm was broken in the ensuing crash.

Appears on a register of  
**Prisoners of War**  
at Fort Delaware, Del.

Where captured *Perryville, Ky*  
When captured *Oct. 8*, 186*2*  
When joined post *April 9*, 186*3*  
Remarks: *Forwarded to City  
Point for exchange  
April 29, 1863.*

5

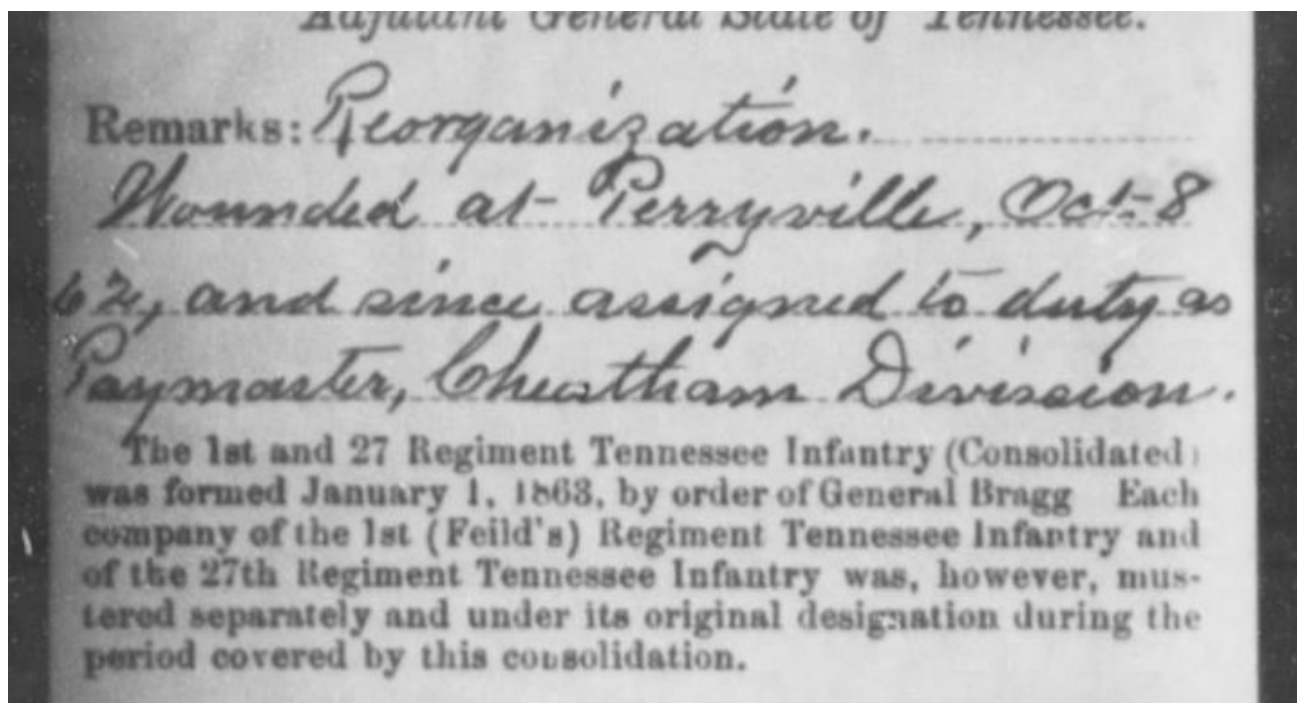
Indorsement shows: "City Point, Va., April 12th, 1863. Received of Capt. H. Seligson, 9th Vermont Vols., U. S. A., one Colonel, one Major, fourteen Captains, and thirteen Lieutenants; also one acting Master, C. S. N., one Master's Mate, one ~~ass~~ <sup>and one Surgeon</sup> Engineer and one private. A part of these officers as indicated on the within rolls having been captured prior to Dec. 10, 1862, have heretofore been exchanged. "Exchanged May 5, 1863." W. H. HATCH, Capt., P. A. C. S."

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1864 Jan 4: Assigned as Paymaster of Gen. Frank Cheatham's Division.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/67187258>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/67187250>



Jan 9: Promoted to Assistant Quartermaster for the 1st TN Infantry. Pilcher would have been responsible for supplying the unit with shoes, clothing, and any other supplies that they would have needed as a soldier.

Nov 30: The 1st TN Infantry was engaged at the Battle of Franklin. They were in Gen. John Carter's brigade of Gen. John Brown's division, which was formerly Cheatham's Division. (Cheatham was promoted to Corps command after Hood's promotion to Army command in July 1864.) They attacked on the western side of the Columbia Pike and fought their way to the Federal defenses positioned across the Carter property. Capt. M.B. Pilcher was wounded in the chest and taken prisoner. He was moved north to Nashville as a prisoner of war.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/68092242>

<i>Math B Pilcher</i>	
Rank, <i>Capt.</i> ; Co. <i>Cheatham's Div.</i>	Reg't .....
Admitted <i>March 26</i> , 1865,	
To No. <i>1</i> , U. S. A., Gen'l Hosp.	
Nashville, Tenn.	
From <i>Franklin Tenn.</i>	
Diagnosis, <i>Wound penetrating lung.</i>	
	Missile, <i>Cross Ball</i>
W'd at <i>Franklin, Tenn. Nov 30</i> , 1864.	
Treatm't, .....	
Ret'd to duty .....	18 .
Transf'd to I. C. ....	18 .
Transf'd to <i>Provost Marshal, Mar 28</i> , 1865.	
	18

1865 Mar 26: Admitted to Hospital No. 1 in Nashville and treated for his injuries sustained in the Battle of Franklin.

May 12: M.B. Pilcher wrote a letter from Camp Chase, OH outside of Columbus, OH that pledged he would remain a prisoner at Camp Chase and not support or speak in support of those in action against the US Government. He had a knack for obtaining special privileges as a prisoner. The letter is attached below.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/255398847>

Head Quarters U.S. Forces  
Camp Chase near Columbus O  
May 12<sup>th</sup> 1865

J. M. B. Pilcher Capt & Paymaster U.S.A.

I do hereby pledge my parole of honor as a  
prisoner of war, that I will remain within the limits  
of Camp Chase, Ohio, and will not leave the said  
Camp or go beyond its limits without special permit  
from the Commanding Officer thereof and will report  
in person to Lt Col C. L. Wether at his office at  
Camp Chase O. until he further orders, and further,  
that during my Parole, I will do no act of  
hostility, nor even speak or write against, nor  
furnish any aid, or information to the enemies of  
the Government of the United States.

M. B. Pilcher  
Capt & Paymaster  
Mechanics Div  
Army Troop

Approved  
W. P. Richardson  
Lt Col Brig Genl U.S.V.  
Mechanics Div  
Camp Chase

1870 Jun 25: The US Federal Census enumerated in Davidson County, TN listed Matt Pilcher at thirty years old. He lived with his wife Judith, three children, and Matt's widowed mother Nancy. Matt's occupation was listed as "dray line" which was someone who loaded and unloaded teamster's wagons.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/255398876>

1880 Jun 5: The US Federal Census enumerated in Davidson County, TN listed Matthew B Pilcher as a grain merchant. He was the head of the household and lived with his wife, widowed mother, two brothers also in the grain business, and five children. The youngest child was one year old and listed as having whooping cough. There are also three black servants and a traveling salesman that lived in Matthew's household at the time.

**CENTENARY CELEBRATION.**  
**Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church Sunday School.**

The observance of the Centenary of Sunday-schools in the First Baptist church yesterday morning, was very well attended, and after singing and prayer, by James Thomas, Sr., the first Superintendent of the school in 1834, the historical sketch of the school was read by the present Superintendent, Captain M. B. Pilcher. During the reading, a solo was sung by Miss Bettie Scovel and also one by Miss Porter Hollins. After the history, brief speeches were made by James Thomas, Sr., H. G. Scovel, John D. Anderson, A. Larcombe, Dr. W. P. Jones, J. L. Weakley, James A. Pigue and J. C. McCrory. The exercises were nearly two hours in length, and seemed to be greatly enjoyed by all those present. Besides the first Superintendent, the venerable James Thomas, his wife, one of the first teachers, was present.

Jun 28:

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<sup>10</sup> *Nashville Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, Monday, June 28, 1880, pg. 3.

In 1873 a mission was started in Watkins' addition, Northwest Nashville, by Mr. M. B. Pilcher and others. In 1876 this mission was removed to the West End Academy, on Stonewall street, and was named the Immanuel Mission. Capt. Pilcher, who has been the eminently capable superintendent of the Sunday-school of the First Church for the past seventeen years, was singularly successful in his consecrated labors at the Immanuel Mission. In addition to the charge of the flourishing school he kept up a weekly prayer-meeting there, which was a great help and comfort to the people of the neighborhood, who soon learned to look up to him, as if he were their regularly appointed and beloved pastor, and insisted on having his ministrations in times of affliction and of sickness, and at the funerals of their dead. Being engaged actively in business, these highly appreciated but onerous calls required more time and strength than he could supply. Early in the spring of 1882 the

1890 Feb 9:

11

**OLD SOLDIERS.**  
Decoration Day and a Monument to Gen. Cheatham.  
Frank Cheatham Bivouac held an important meeting Friday night at the headquarters in Baxter Court.

Apr 6:

On motion of Mr. J. B. O'Bryan the following committee was appointed to assist committees heretofore appointed looking to the creation of a fund to erect a monument to the memory of Gen. Frank Cheatham: Capt. M. B. Pilcher, chairman; Maj. W. F. Foster, Frank Porterfield, J. B. O'Bryan, T. H. Maney, John W. Morton, J. L. Hill, Dr. J. H. McNeilly, W. H. Allen. The joint committees are to formulate a plan for raising money for the monument and report to the Bevouac.

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<sup>11</sup> *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday, February 9, 1890, pg. 11.

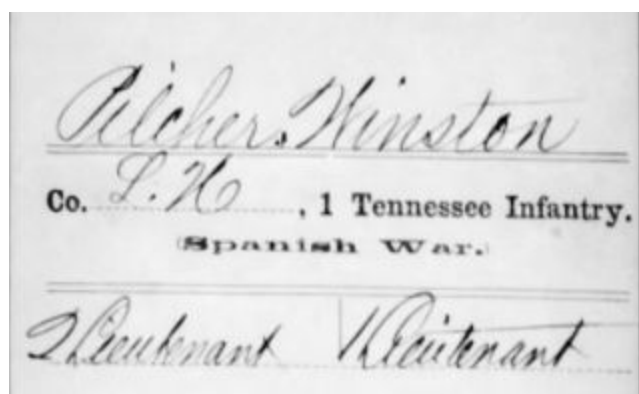
<sup>12</sup> *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday, April 6, 1890, pg. 6.



1898 Matthew's son Winston Pilcher fought in the Spanish-American War.



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1900 Jun 9: The US Federal Census enumerated in Davidson County, TN listed Matthew B. Pilcher as the head of the household. He was sixty years old employed as a real estate agent. He lived with his wife Judith and four of their children. They also had a thirty five year old widowed black woman named Maggie Huggins employed as a servant.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/73283462/winston-pilcher>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/309185514>

1904 Jun 3:

Thursday afternoon, June 16—Reception given by Capt. and Mrs. M. B. Pilcher at their residence in honor of the members of Capt. Pilcher's regiment, the First Tennessee.

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1908 May 14: Matthew and his wife Judith were very involved with Veterans organizations and Judith was the President of the Tennessee Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

**REVIEWS HER  
YEAR'S WORK**

— — —

**Mrs. M. B. Pilcher Reads  
Elaborate Report.**

— — —

**STATE PRESIDENT CHARMS  
HEARERS WHILE SHE READS**

— — —

**Complete Resume of the Achievements of Tennessee Division Since Nashville Woman Was Chosen President—Extracts of Report.**

— — —

Mrs. M. B. Pilcher, state president of the U. D. C., yesterday read to the convention her first annual report. It was both an interesting and a valuable document. The eloquence of the able presiding officer and the lofty sentiments she so forcibly expressed, charmed all who heard. In part, the report is as follows:

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<sup>15</sup> *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee, Friday, June 3, 1904, pg. 6.

<sup>16</sup> *Chattanooga Daily Times*, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Thursday, May 14, 1908, pg. 7.

Dec 30: Matthew Barrow Pilcher died in Nashville, TN at the age of sixty eight. He was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

**U. D. C. HONOR MEMORY  
OF CAPT. M. B. PILCHER**

A meeting of the First Tennessee Regiment Chapter, U. D. C., was held this morning, at the library of the Board of Trade with the Second Vice-President, Mrs. T. B. Neal, presiding. Resolutions of sympathy were passed to Mrs. M. B. Pilcher, State President, and her daughter, Mrs. Reau E. Folk, chapter President, on the death of Capt. M. B. Pilcher, a gallant Confederate soldier who was widely honored and beloved in Nashville.

1909 Jan 6:

17

**MEMORY OF M. B. PILCHER  
HONORED AT MONTEAGLE**

Portrait Formally Presented to the Assembly, the Services Being Especially Impressive.

1910 Aug 28:

18

<sup>17</sup> *Nashville Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, Wednesday, January 6, 1909, pg. 8.

<sup>18</sup> *The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday, August 28, 1910, pg. 2.

CAPT. MATTHEW BARROW PILCHER.

In 1859, before we dreamed of war, Capt. Matt B. Pilcher was a member of Company B, Rock City Guards, Nashville. When the war came on he was made sergeant of the company and mustered in the 1st Tennessee Infantry on May 10, 1861. After the regiment had reenlisted for the war at Shiloh, Captain Pilcher was made quartermaster and in later years paymaster. In the battle of Perryville, Ky., October 8, 1862, he, by permission of General Cheatham, was in the hottest of the fight, and in the desperate charge of the regiment, which lost some four hundred men, he was severely wounded. I nursed him for six months, and twice during the time Dr. J. R. Buist, our surgeon, said he could not recover. He was exchanged at City Point in April, 1863, and when en route to the regiment at Shelbyville, Tenn., the car in which he was riding jumped the track near Bristol, killing and wounding a number of his comrades and breaking his arm.

While on parole in Louisville waiting for exchange we were allowed to attend church. At the Baptist Church in which Dr. Lorimer was then preaching Captain Pilcher was called on to teach the Bible class, in which there were a number of "boys in blue," while he was in the captain's uniform of gray. While in Louisville a young lady gave each of us a pocket edition of the New Testament with a sentiment written on the fly leaf, but I lost mine. Captain Pilcher kept his in the side pocket of his coat. He was at the front again in the battle of Franklin, Tenn., when a bullet struck the Testament, turned from his heart, and plowed through his side, giving him a severe wound which caused him to be captured again. He was then kept in prison at Camp Chase until the war ended.

While in this prison Captain Pilcher led the singing and prayer service while Rev. William Stewart Hawkins preached to the boys. I recall four members of the 1st Tennessee who were not demoralized by the war and who maintained their morality throughout the struggle—viz., M. B. Pilcher, J. B. O'Bryan, W. M. Pollard, and W. L. Danley. They would not eat rations they knew were stolen.

After the war Captain Pilcher was actively engaged in business; but he was never too busy to do the Master's work, and I do not know a minister who did more missionary work than he. He was never too proud to go into the slums and help lift up fallen humanity. Some months before he was stricken with paralysis he was sent for to minister at the funeral of one of the unfortunates. Chancellor Wiggins wrote me from Sewanee: "We regret to hear of the death of Captain Pilcher. We shall miss him, especially at Monteagle, where he did such excellent work."

We shall miss him from our Bivouac, from our Reunions, from the Church and missions, and from our firesides.

The foregoing is from Marcus B. Toney, who was perhaps his closest personal friend. Because of Captain Pilcher's prominence in the ways indicated, his wide acquaintance, and the prominence of Mrs. Pilcher as President of the Tennessee Daughters of the Confederacy, there were many tributes from various sections by persons and Confederate organiza-



CAPT. PILCHER IN '60'S.

tions to his memory. There are three sons and a daughter, wife of Mr. Reau E. Folk, Treasurer of Tennessee.

THREE STATE PRESIDENTS U. D. C. BEREAVED.

To the United Daughters of the Confederacy: It is the painful duty of your President to report to you that in a brief space of time three of our State Division Presidents have been called to mourn the loss of a life companion, and each now stands alone in the shadow of one of the greatest sorrows that can come to woman. The first to "pass under the rod" was Mrs. L. P. Lawrence, President of the Florida Division, and then Mrs. Bushrod W. Bell, of Seattle, the President of the recently formed Washington Division, and next Mrs. M. B. Pilcher, President of the Tennessee Division.

In these sad bereavements we mourn with our dear widowed friends, and feel that their loss is also ours in that these deaths have taken from our midst not only their loved ones, but valiant soldiers of the Confederacy, our dear Veterans, whose passing away is a great grief to us. It was my privilege to have known one of these, Capt. M. B. Pilcher, and learned the story of his gallant service to the Southern cause in his boyhood and early manhood, and to witness the great love shown for him by the children who have assembled at Monteagle from year to year, and the far-reaching and immeasurable influence of the "twilight prayer" and song service

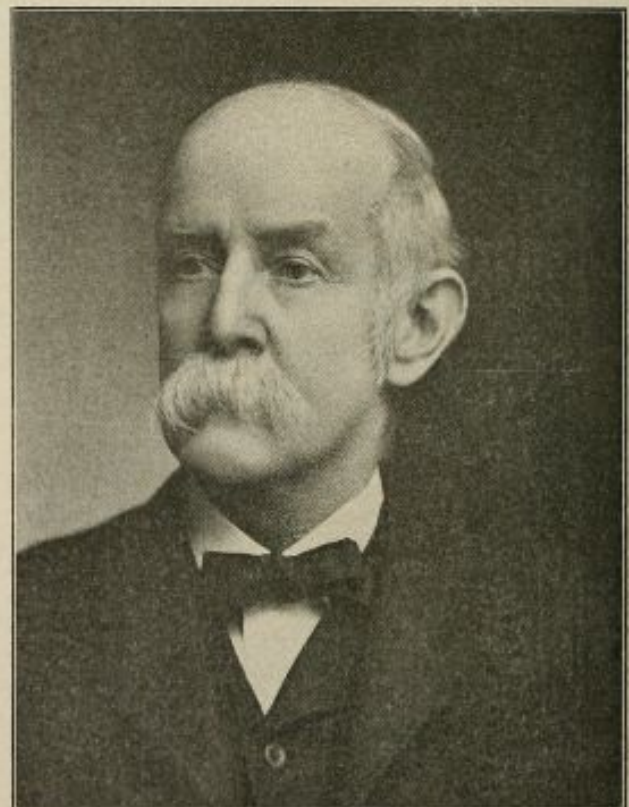


Photo by Calvert Bros.

CAPT. M. B. PILCHER.

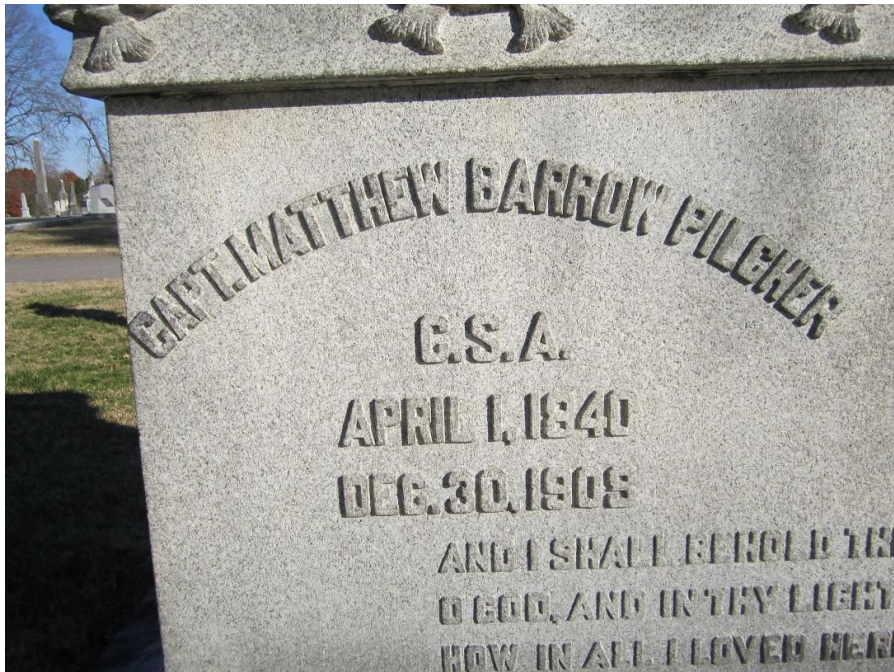
which he daily held with these little ones who "came unto" him each evening to take part in this sweet communion.

There is rest and peace for these faithful soldiers who have "crossed the river;" but our loving sympathy goes out to the widowed ones who will so sadly miss the loving care and companionship of many years of wedded happiness.

May strength to endure be theirs! and may they be sustained by a blessed faith! CORNELIA BRANCH STONE.



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<sup>19</sup> Confederate Veteran Magazine, 1909.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14719021/matthew-barrow-pilcher>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14719021/matthew-barrow-pilcher>