

Georgia, Berrien County

In person appeared before me AW Patterson ordinary of said county, Solomon Griffin, who on oath deposes and says: I was a member of Company "E" 54 GA Regiment, Confederate States Army.

I know W.H. Outlaw; have known him ever since just prior to the time he enlisted in said Company, which was about the 9th day of May 1862. He served continuously in said Company until the close of the war. He was furloughed at Tupelo, Miss, to go to his home in Berrien County, Georgia as he had had no furlough before that time, on about the last of February 1865, said furlough issued by Capt. H.M. Talley and furloughed for twenty eight days, before the expiration of the 28 days, he received news that the Company ("E" 54 GA) had been cut to pieces¹ and was there disbanded and said W.H. Outlaw was notified by (sic) not undertake to go back then, by Lieutenant Jas. Griffin of said Co. and before said Jas. Griffin sent on (sic) any of these to go back to the Regiment, Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, Va. This is the reason why W.H. Outlaw was not with said Rgt at the surrender. His blindness² would prevent his making a support at anything xxx he able to.

I know all these facts to be true of my personal knowledge.

Solomon Griffin³, Orderly Sergeant⁴

Sworn before me this

Feb 1st 1904

A.W. Patterson, Ordinary, Berrien Co. Ga.

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¹ The 54th Georgia Voluntary Infantry participated in the Atlanta Campaign and the Tennessee Campaign. After the devastating loss at the Battle of Nashville (Dec 15-16, 1864), Hood withdrew to Tupelo, Mississippi, the location of W.H. Outlaw's injury (and a previous Civil-War engagement involving Confederate cavalry). Hood arrived in Tupelo the first part of January, 1865, and Outlaw was furloughed because of his injury. Outlaw was thus spared further engagements of his unit as part of the consolidation into the Army of the South. It is probable that Griffin's reference to "cut to pieces" referred to the bloody Battle of Bentonville, which occurred March 19-21, i.e., during Outlaw's authorized leave, and which resulted in Johnston's surrender. (I've tried to word this paragraph in accordance with its conjectural nature and my incomplete mastery of the subject. I unequivocally do **NOT** recommend Rigdon's *Historical Sketch and Roster of the Georgia 54th Infantry Regiment* (2003).)

² I am alive to the possibility that some fudging occurred in order to secure a pension.

³ Solomon Griffin (1837-1907), the son of James Griffin (1813-1865) and Polly Monk Griffin (1812-1881) was from a prominent Berrien County family. He had a first-hand understanding of the devastation the war brought to families as his brother Mitchell and brother-in-law Irwin Jones died in the war. He is [buried](#) in the Griffin Cemetery (aka Ten-mile Creek Cemetery) near the W.H. Outlaw Farm (part of which the Griffin family owned at one time). Our [virtual cemetery](#) contains information showing how the Griffins and our family (Connells, my father's side) were intertwined; there is an addition connection through Harmon Gaskins (my mother's side). (This paragraph is derived from oral history, generally available resources, and from Tharon Griffin's *The descendants of James Griffin and Sarah Lodge* (1993).

⁴ An Orderly Sergeant was the senior non-commissioned officer in a company-sized unit, equivalent to First Sergeant, formally, or Top, informally, in my service era. (Some descriptions are more comprehensive than this one.)