

# Pvt. Jeremiah Carter - Co. "C"

By Jeff Joyce

Private Jeremiah Carter was born on April 17, 1827, in Delaware to farmer Daniel Carter and Elizabeth Parker Myers. In May 1852 he married Adeline West from Pennsylvania and they had four children: Daniel (born 1854), Rachel (born 1857), Sarah (born 1859) and Katherine (born 1860). In 1860 Jeremiah was working as a farmer in Cecil County, Maryland.

On March 12, 1864, he enlisted in Company C of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland in Baltimore. At the time Jeremiah was recorded as 5' 5" tall with grey eyes and dark hair. It's likely he enlisted in response to the bounties being offered, which could total up to \$300. Jeremiah joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland and Army of the Potomac outside Culpeper, Virginia, in time to participate in the Overland Campaign, which began in early May 1864.

Over the next six weeks he participated in the fighting at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Following the Union's failure to capture Petersburg in early June, Lieutenant Ulysses S.

Grant directed the Second and Sixth Corps to cross the Jerusalem Plank Road and cut the Weldon Railroad. The Weldon was a vital railroad that connected Petersburg with Wilmington, North Carolina. At the time the Fifth Corps, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland, was on the Union's far left. The maneuver began on June 21 but the following day a Confederate counter-attack by the division of Brigadier General William "Little Billy" Ma-



CSA Brig. Gen. William Mahone

hone forced the Second Corps back, capturing thousands of prisoners and four artillery pieces.

Private James Dorrance of Company A wrote a letter from a "Camp near Petersburg Va" to his sister Emma on June 23, 1864. In the letter he shared his recollection of what had happened:

*"Yesterday we had a pretty hard trip. About 5 P.M. orders came for us to move and we started off double quick and marched about 2 1/2 miles to the left to reenforce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps who had advanced earlier in the day and had been flanked and forced back to their breastworks with the loss of 4 pieces of artillery and part of 1 Brig."*

At some point on June 22 Jeremiah was killed by a gunshot. His final resting place is uncertain. According to War Department records a "Private J F-lk" of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland was killed on June 22 and re-interred after the war at City Point National Cemetery. It's possible this is Jeremiah Carter and the misspelling due to poor record keeping.



Adeline filed for a widow's pension in November 1864 and was granted \$8 a month, plus \$2 a month for each of their four children. In October 1867 she married John H. Marshall in Cecil County and according to the 1900 census the couple was still living there.



Left, Union HQ near Jerusalem Pike