

Private Edward Carver Mobley (Company A, 7th Maryland)

By Pvt. Jeff Joyce



Above, Private Edward Carver Mobley, Co. A, 7th Maryland

On July 2, 1862, President Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 more volunteers “as to bring this unnecessary and injurious war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion”. In response the 7th Maryland Volunteer Infantry was organized in August and September 1862 at Camp Harford in Baltimore.

Company A of the 7th Maryland was recruited in Washington County by Edward Mayberry Mobley, the former county sheriff and a Hagerstown firefighter. Mobley enlisted on August 8, 1862, and was commissioned Captain of Company A on August 20. Captain Mobley’s son Edward Carver Mobley also enlisted in Company A. Both father and son would serve together in the 7th Maryland.

Carver (as he was known) was born on November 30, 1844, in Hagerstown to Edward and his wife Ellen Cecelia Carver, the oldest of their 10 children. Carver enlisted in Company A on August 18, 1862. At the time he was working as a blacksmith and described as 5’ 5” inches tall with grey eyes and black hair. Company A moved by train from Hagerstown to Baltimore to join the rest of the 7th Maryland at Camp Harford, located at Druid Hill Park. On September 18, Carver and the 7th Maryland left Baltimore for

Antietam, where it was attached to Brigadier General John R. Kenly's Maryland Brigade. Too late to see action during the Battle of Antietam, the 7th Maryland spent the remainder of 1862 guarding Williamsport and the nearby fords of the Potomac River.

In December 1862 the 7th Maryland moved to Maryland Heights overlooking Harpers Ferry and established its first winter encampment. Suffering from jaundice, Carver went home to Hagerstown on January 5, 1863, to recover. He returned to Maryland Heights on February 6.

During 1863 Carver kept a diary and chronicled his experiences with Company A as it left winter camp and eventually joined the Army of the Potomac after the battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. Many of his entries are routine, covering picket duty, the weather and letters he sent and received. On May 14, 1863, Carver wrote "It is raining again. I received an answer letter from papa. Was detailed to move corn from the ticket office down to the colonel's stable." Two months later, as the Army of the Potomac pursued Confederate General Robert E. Lee after Gettysburg, Carver wrote on July 18 "On the march. Crossed the Potomac at Berlin and marched to Waterford, Loudoun County Virginia. Caught a bad cold."

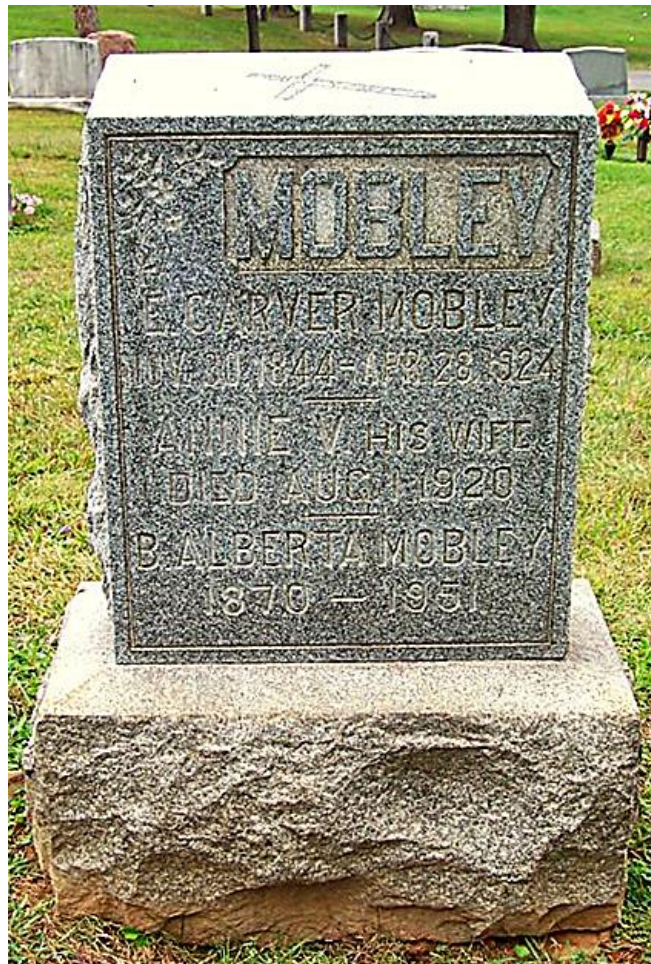
Following the Bristoe Station Campaign in October 1863, Carver and the 7th Maryland established its second winter encampment in Culpeper County with the Army of the Potomac. Carver's last entry in his diary was on December 29, when he wrote "In camp near Culpeper it has quit raining but very muddy. This was a disagreeable day."

In May 1864 the 7th Maryland left Culpeper County at the start of the Overland Campaign, with almost constant fighting at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and the initial assault on Petersburg. In June 1864 Carver developed a severe hernia and after being treated at a field hospital at City Point (outside Petersburg) was transferred to Alexandria via ship. He was admitted to Slough General Hospital on July 2. Slough was one of many hospitals established in Alexandria during the Civil War and consisted of a headquarters building, 16 barracks, a mess hall, laundry, storehouse, stable and dead house. Carver would remain at Slough General Hospital for the next year, unable to return to duty with the 7th Maryland during the siege of Petersburg and final pursuit of General Lee to Appomattox.

With the end of the Civil War the 7th Maryland was mustered out of service on May 31, 1865. Because Carver was still hospitalized, he was mistakenly recorded as a deserter on June 4, 1865, an error not corrected until 1898. Carver returned to Hagerstown, where he worked as a painter. He married Anna (Annie) Virginia McCardell on August 18, 1868, and the couple had three daughters (Nellie, Alberta and Stella). Only Alberta survived to adulthood. Carver became a passenger brakeman on the Washington County branch of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad and later an engineman on the Western Maryland Railroad, spending 35 years with the railroads. Like his father Edward he also served as a Hagerstown firefighter, helping organize the First Hagerstown Hose Company in 1879. Carver remained active in veterans' affairs with the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and as a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hagerstown.

A March 1906 newspaper article profiled Carver and his father Colonel Edward M. Mobley. The article was titled "Fought Side by Side: Father and Son, Both Veterans of the Civil War, Still Living and Residents of Hagerstown".

Carver's wife Annie died on August 1, 1920, and was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown. Carver was buried with her when he died on April 28, 1924. Their daughter Alberta, who never married, joined them following her death in 1951.



Above, Edward Carver Mobley's grave marker within Rose Hill Cemetery, 600 South Potomac Street in Hagerstown, MD