

Pvt. Albert T. Gilbert, 7th Maryland Co. "H"

By Jeff Joyce

Private Albert T. Gilbert was born in 1838 in Harford County, Maryland, to Taylor and Sophia Gilbert, one of four children. Taylor Gilbert died in 1854 and in 1860 Albert was working as a farmer while living

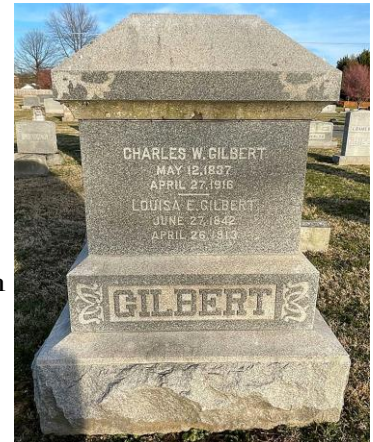


with his mother Sophia. Following the outbreak of the Civil War Albert and his older brother Charles B. Gilbert (born in 1836) enlisted on August 21, 1862, in Baltimore in Company H of the 7th Maryland Volunteer Infantry. At the time he was described as 6-feet tall with grey eyes and light hair.

Coincidentally, a third Gilbert (Charles W. Gilbert) enlisted on August 29 in Company H. Charles W. Gilbert was born on May 12, 1837, in Woodsboro (Frederick County), Maryland, and a blacksmith. It's likely he was a cousin of Albert and Charles B. All three Gilberts served faithfully with the 7th Maryland over the next two years, with Charles B. being promoted to Corporal in May 1863.

On May 8, 1864, during the Maryland Brigade's attack at Laurel Hill near Spotsylvania, Charles W. was wounded; he would spend the next 10 months in the hospital. Both Albert and Charles B. survived the Overland Campaign (Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Petersburg) and Charles B. was promoted to Sergeant in October 1864.

By late March 1865 the siege of Petersburg was nearing its end as Lieutenant General Grant extended the Army of the Potomac lines west into Dinwiddie County. On March 31 the Fifth Corps (including the 7th Maryland) under Major General Gouverneur Warren attacked Confederate entrenchments along White Oak Road, hoping to cut General Robert E. Lee's communication with Major General George Pickett's division at Five Forks. Warren's advance was stalled by a Confederate counterattack before the Federals recovered and forced the Confederates back. Private James R. Dorrance of Company A recorded in his diary that the 7th Maryland:



"Advanced at daylight about 3 miles and were preparing to charge when the rebels came in on our flank and everybody left in a hurry? We massed and drove the rebels beyond where they commenced to drive us in the morning. Leaving their dead and wounded."



During the fighting along White Oak Road Albert was killed by a gunshot wound to the head and buried nearby with another member of the 7th Maryland, Private George A. Jones of Company C. Both were moved to Poplar Grove National Cemetery after the war.

Charles B. and Charles W. both survived the war and mustered out together on May 31, 1865. Charles B. and his wife Susan had at least six daughters while he was farming in Harford County. He passed away sometime after 1906. Charles W. and his wife Louisa had at least five children who survived adulthood. He worked as a coach and carriage manufacturer in Walkersville (Frederick County). Charles W. died on April 27, 1916, and is buried with Louisa in Glade Cemetery in Walkersville.