



Figure 1: Soldier's cover from Private (later Lieutenant) F[rank] A[sbury] Pope while in Company A of the 11th Mississippi Regiment. The 'Due 20' is an unlisted marking.

Frank Pope, CSA — From Colorado to Ole Miss to New York

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

The cover shown in Figure 1 is a soldier's use from Bristoe Station, Virginia, posted October 23, 1861, with an army target "canceling" a manuscript "Due 10" and a penciled "Due" with handstamped "20" on cover to Mrs. Lou S. Clark, Attalaville, Mississippi. The mandated soldier endorsement at left was written by "Private F. A. Pope, Co. 'A' 11th Miss. Regt."

Bristoe Station is 12 miles southwest of Manassas Junction on the Alexandria and Orange Railroad. It was garrisoned by the 11th Mississippi after the Battle of Manassas (known as "Bull Run" in the North).

The "20" is an unlisted rate in the *CSA Catalog*, thus a new listing for future catalogs.¹ The Confederate postage rate at this time was five cents if traveling a distance under 500 miles.

Attalaville, Mississippi, was more than 500 miles from Bristoe Station, Virginia, and thus the postage owed was 10 cents. It was apparently also overweight and thus the postage was 20 cents, for double rate, and the "Due 10" was obliterated by the army target canceler.

I am uncertain of the nature of the relationship of Mrs. Lou Clark of Attalaville and Frank Pope, but it is said that Attalaville should have been named Clark Town, thus she was undoubtedly a well-respected resident.² The community prospered the most from 1850-1860 and contained three residences, one store, a

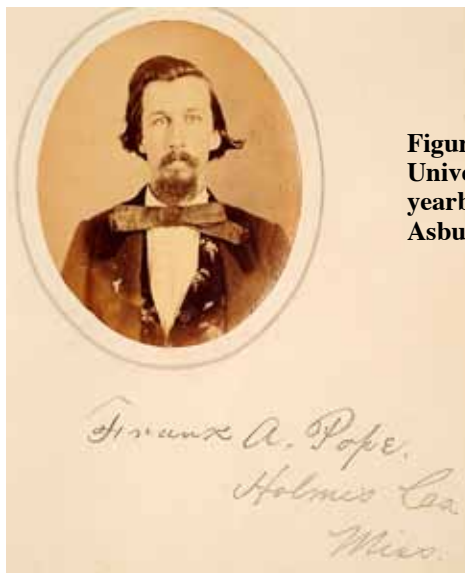


Figure 2:
University of Mississippi
yearbook photo of Francis
Asbury Pope, 1861.

blacksmith shop, a woodshop and a "Male and Female Academy." Silas H. Clark, the founder of Attalaville, owned and controlled the store and shops; his youngest brother was associated with him in the mercantile business for a short time. Silas Clark owned and operated two large plantations and was also engaged in the commission business in New Orleans, under the firm name of Thompson and Clark.

Pope is listed as a student at the University of Mississippi ("Ole Miss") in 1861. He is also listed as



Figure 3: Another cover to Loulie Clark from Frank Pope while in the 11th Mississippi Regiment, this one used from Grand Junction, Tennessee, with a Due 5 rate for a distance under 500 miles. It was posted on November 28 (1861).

hailing from Georgetown, Colorado. In 1861, Colorado was still a United States territory.

My parents retired to Colorado in 1970 and, more than once, I have personally visited this delightfully preserved old mining town located high in the Rocky Mountains.

This seems a rather far-flung location from which Pope hailed to attend Ole Miss. At the time of the Civil War, Georgetown was a rough place full of murders and mayhem of all kinds.

The 11th Mississippi Regiment was also known as the University Grays. Online links to more than one blog³ yielded some fascinating information about Frank Pope from Holmes County, Mississippi (Figure 2).

A month after the cover in Figure 1 was postmarked, a second cover (Figure 3) was sent from Frank Pope to Loulie Clark from Grand Junction, Tennessee, with the more usual Due 5 postage rate for 1861. Grand Junction, Tennessee, was within a 500-mile radius of Attalaville and thus the letter was able to travel at the lower rate.

At one time a partner in the law firm of Pope & Wolcott (Edward Oliver Wolcott went on to serve as a U.S. Senator), Frank Pope was, according to a published history of Georgetown, Colorado, “a

Southern gentleman, a ladies’ man, and not especially fond of work.”

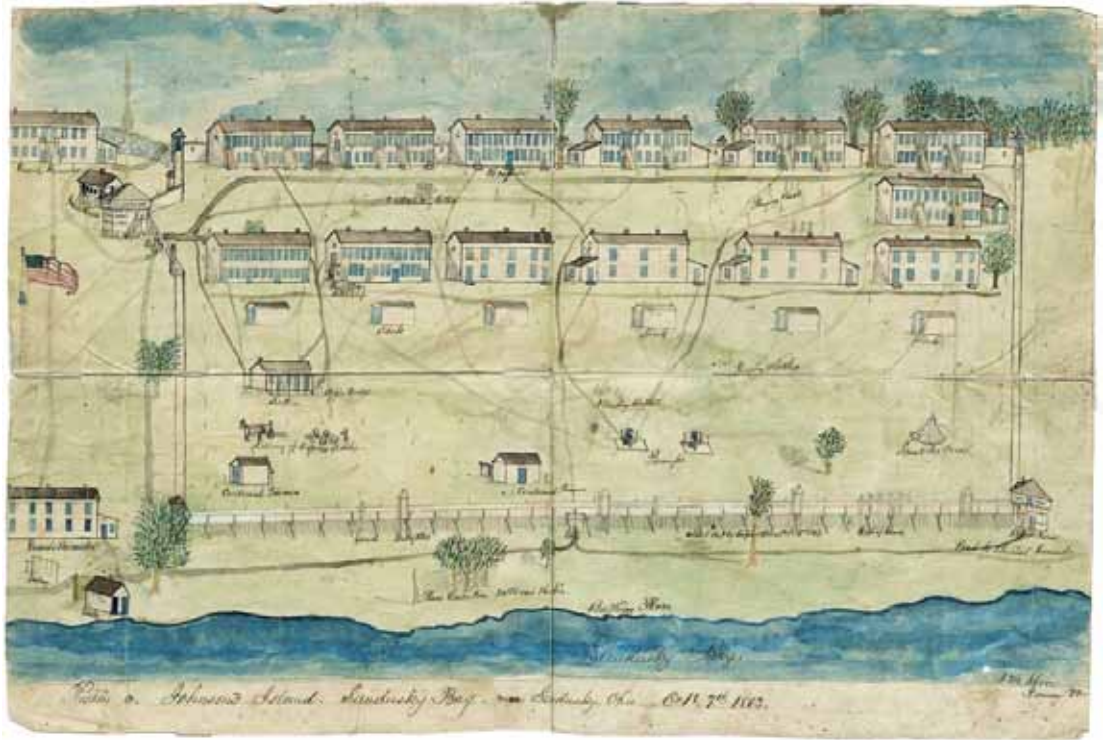
Figure 4 shows a photo of all the lawyers of Georgetown in 1874, gathered in front of a local law office. Pope is the third man standing from the left. He received his law degree at the end of the decade in which the war ended.

Wolcott graduated from Harvard Law School in



Figure 4: This 1874 photo shows the lawyers of Georgetown, Colorado, gathered in front of a local law office. Frank Pope is the third man standing on the left.

Figure 5: Period drawing of Johnson's Island Prison Camp, 1863, Sandusky, Ohio, where Pope was imprisoned during the war.



June 1871. The firm of Pope & Walcott was established in December 1871 and was dissolved only a year later in 1872.⁴ I'm betting that there is a story there, as well. During the war, Wolcott served with the 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, joining in 1864 at the age of 16.

There were 139 male students enrolled at Ole Miss in 1861.⁵ When 135 of those men enlisted in the Confederate Army, the remaining four students were told that the university had to temporarily close due to such low enrollment. The bulk of the students joined Company A of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment in the Confederate Army. It is not surprising that they were dubbed the "University Grays."

An unfortunate statistic is that there were 100 per cent casualties in the University Grays during the Battle of Gettysburg, when the Confederates made a desperate charge up Cemetery Hill against Union troops. Many were killed and those who weren't killed were wounded or captured. In their valiant and futile last charge, the 11th Mississippi reach the stone wall at Gettysburg, behind which were Federal soldiers four ranks deep.

The 11th Mississippi had lost 103 killed, 166 wounded and 41 captured. There were only 40 men left unwounded. The few surviving Grays merged with another company and fought until the end of the war. The story of the University Grays has inspired novels and even an opera that debuted in 1961 at Ole Miss.⁶

The year before the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1863), Frank Pope transferred to the 29th Mississippi and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in Company K (the Dixie Rebels) on March 15, 1862. Thus, he avoided the Gettysburg casualty list of the University Grays.

He was captured, however, at Lookout Mountain on November 24, 1863, and sent to Johnson's Island Prison where he was held until he was released in June 1864 after taking the oath of allegiance.

Johnson's Island was a Union prison for Confederate officers located in Sandusky Bay of Lake Erie, near Sandusky, Ohio. The prison was built on this island because of the island's isolated location, which made it very difficult for prisoners to escape. At the same time, the island was near several important Ohio cities with excellent access to roads, rail and water transportation. It was relatively easy to acquire building supplies to construct the prison, as well as to secure food to feed the inmates.

The prison at Johnson's Island opened in April 1862. It continued to house prisoners until September 1865. Estimates vary on the number of prisoners who spent time at Johnson's Island, but it is likely at least 10,000 men spent time there.

Of those men, approximately 300 died at the camp. Most of these men died from diseases common in military camps during the war. Additional men perished trying to escape from the camp or from the harsh winters on Lake Erie.

While life was hard at Johnson's Island, the conditions there were better than those at other Northern and Southern military prisons. One of the main reasons for this was that only officers were housed there. Many of these men came from wealthier backgrounds and received financial assistance from their loved ones. Northern officials also believed officers were deserving of kinder treatment than enlisted men because of the officers' higher standing in society.

Federal officials removed Johnson's Island's original warden, former Sandusky Mayor William Pierson, for abusing prisoners in January 1864.

Personally, I am a benefactor member of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison (Figure 5).

After the war, one would anticipate that Frank Pope might be buried in Colorado or even Mississippi. It was surprising to find that, instead, he is interred at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.⁸

Founded in 1838 and now a National Historic Landmark, Green-Wood was one of the first rural cemeteries in America. By the early 1860s, it had earned an international reputation for its magnificent beauty and became a prestigious place to be buried, attracting 500,000 visitors a year. It was second only to Niagara Falls as the nation's greatest tourist attraction.

Crowds flocked there to enjoy family outings, carriage rides, and sculpture viewing in the finest of first generation American landscapes. Green-Wood's popularity helped inspire the creation of public parks such as New York City's Central and Prospect Parks, only a few blocks from Green-Wood.

The spectacular 478 acres of hills, valleys, ponds and centuries-old trees are home to over a half-million permanent residents, including luminaries such as Louis Comfort Tiffany, Leonard Bernstein, Boss Tweed, Horace Greely, Civil War generals, politicians, artists, entertainers and, of course, our subject soldier, Frank Pope.

Francis Asbury Pope died in 1880 at the young age of 40. It is said that he was in New York trying to find a cure for an unspecified malady. Clearly, he did not succeed.

Endnotes

- 1 Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo. *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012.
- 2 Attala Historical Society, rootsweb. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~msahs/allabout3.html> Accessed December 26, 2015.
- 3 Jim Woodrick, "And speaking of which..." Frank Pope(s), Ole Miss and Georgetown, Colorado. <http://andspeakingofwhich.blogspot.com/2012/03/frank-popes-ole-miss-and-georgetown.html> Accessed December 4, 2015.
- 4 Edward Oliver Wolcott Papers, Denver Library. http://eadsrv.denverlibrary.org/sdx/pl/doctdm.xsp?id=WH422_d0e35&fmt=text&base=fa Accessed December 26, 2015.
- 5 OMG Facts: 97% of the students at Ole Miss enlisted in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and all were wounded or killed. <http://www.omgfacts.com/lists/10873/97-of-the-students-at-Ole-Miss-enlisted-in-the-Confederate-Army-during-the-Civil-War-and-all-were-wounded-or-killed> Accessed December 4, 2015.
- 6 Stephen R. Davis, *11th Mississippi Infantry, A Brief History*. <http://faculty.swosu.edu/scott.long/11thmiss/homepage/history.htm> Accessed December 26, 2015.
- 7 Green-Wood. <http://www.green-wood.com/about-history/> Accessed December 26, 2015.
- 8 Jeff Richman. Green-Wood Historian's Blog. <http://www.green-wood.com/category/blog/> Accessed December 4, 2015.

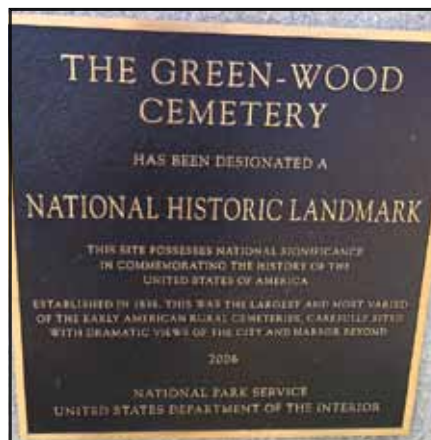


Figure 6: National Historic plaque for Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn where Frank Pope is buried.



Figure 7: Green-Wood Cemetery as it looked in 1880 when Frank Pope was buried there.



Figure 8: Green-Wood Cemetery, a gothic beauty.



Figure 9: Green-Wood Cemetery in its springtime glory.

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