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A Good Union Man

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The military intelligence product of espionage has always been a necessary component of war, but achievements have become more difficult as the conflicts have expanded and become more complex. Spying during the Civil War, however, was incredibly easy for both sides, according to Donald E. Markle in *Spies and Spymasters of the Civil War*.¹ While one might question his appraisal of “incredibly easy,” historiography does indicate that the methods of that period were rather simple. Actually, they were not very different from those of the Revolutionary War, except for the emerging utilization of telegraphy, photography and hot air balloons. Markle notes that in the Civil War, “The enemies were the same nationality (American), they spoke the same language (with dialects), had been under the same government, and knew each other’s geography well, a situation unknown to other countries of the world. Then, as now, to be an effective spy in a foreign land requires years of extensive training in the nuances of the language, customs and manners of the country...These were not the issues for a Civil War spy, Union or Confederate, but one had to be willing, brave and intelligent to avoid capture. Amateurs were welcome and became the core of both the Union and Confederate spy systems.”²

Markle provides the names and many of the stories (triumphs and tragedies) of 387 male and female, Union and Confederate, spies and spymasters identified in his research which he says was not intended to be all-inclusive. But given the names, the remaining question is, what made them choose such an uncertain and dangerous path? Markle writes that “Passions ran high in support of both the Union and Confederacy with very little middle ground. The Union was split between the abolitionists who demanded an end to slavery and the ‘peaceniks’ who wanted peace at any price. The Confederacy had a disunited front – one group believed strongly in the issue of states rights, another fought for the continuation of slavery, and a third consisting of ‘Unionists’ believed the war to be wrong.”³

During the drive to secession, however, the South’s divisiveness was even more complicated and the immediate secessionists were opposed by unconditional unionists and another group, cooperationists, who

bridged these extremes. Cooperationists were ultimately willing to accept secession, but only if the majority of the people ratified the measure and the state acted in cooperation with other slaveholding states. In Alabama's election of delegates to the secession convention on December 24, 1860, fifty-three secessionist and forty-seven cooperationist delegates were elected. The unconditional unionists were not strong enough to run under a party banner. Accordingly, some unionists ran as cooperationists and all but one of the cooperationist counties were in the northern half of the state.⁴

Once the war started, and during its course, many overt unionists suffered various kinds of abuse (up to and including death) imposed upon them by their secessionist neighbors, the civil authorities and the Confederate Army.^{5: 6} This treatment and/or their resolute loyalty to the stars and stripes induced many unionists to take part in the conflict. Thus when the Federal forces invaded and occupied North Alabama for several periods beginning in 1862, it provided opportunities for both white unionists and black activists to take part in the war in several ways: The occupation permitted loyal unionists to pass to and through the lines to enlist in a number of Federal regiments. In late 1862 the First Alabama Cavalry, U.S.A. began recruiting Southern enlistees, most from Alabama. Many unionists served as scouts and guides to units in the field and those unionists residing in battle and skirmish areas were able to help wounded Union soldiers left for dead or unattended at the site. Of most importance to field commanders were the number, disposition and capability of opposing troops and information from those unionists who were knowledgeable in this regard.⁷

In her book, *Loyalty and Loss – Alabama Unionists in the Civil War and Reconstruction*, Margaret Storey describes many of the incidents of Alabama unionist espionage that are revealed in the papers of the Southern Claims Commission (SCC).⁸ One of the incidents involves a prominent North Alabama resident, the subject of this paper, of whom she writes, “Loyalist spies living within the Union lines were more likely to visit Federal headquarters with information than those living south of the Tennessee River. However, Franklin County planter John C. Goodloe, considered by Federal commanders ‘one of the best posted [men] on the south side of the river,’ crossed the river a few times in 1864 with news of Confederate activities.”⁹



John Calvin Goodloe
Portrait by William Frye, ca. 1846, in private collection



Harriet Rebecca Turner Goodloe

Copy of original portrait by William Frye, ca. 1840, in private collection

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The full quote from the dispatch which is noted below and the two that follow are all from *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, and indicates Goodloe's value to federal commanders:

Brig. Gen. G. M. Dodge, Athens, Ala., April 24, 1864 wrote to Lieut. Col. William T. Clark, Asst. Adj.-Gen., in Huntsville, Ala:

“The man Colonel Rowett speaks of meeting under the flag of truce is one of the best posted on the South side of the river and a good friend to us. Anything he should report I should place great confidence in.”¹⁰



U.S. Major General Grenville M. Dodge

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Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, Oct. 20, 1863 wrote to Gen. Dodge in Corinth, and Gen. Hurlburt in Memphis:

“I have a message from Mr. Goodloe that all of Wheeler’s, Lee’s, and Forrest’s cavalry have come out of Tennessee and are now between Tuscumbia and Decatur.”¹¹

Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman in Iuka, Oct. 24, 1863 wrote to Maj. Gen. Frank P. Blair, Jr.:

“To attack cavalry with infantry is always a hard job, but you should strip as light of baggage as possible, get your field artillery near the head of the column, break through their picket line before daylight, and be among their camps and bivouacs as quick as possible. Don’t be drawn beyond Tuscumbia. Take what corn you need and all serviceable horses, giving receipts. Tell Mr. Goodloe, if he satisfied me further in the campaign that he is as good a Union man as he ought to be, I will see his receipts are taken up with cash. But at the outset he must take the same fare as others.”¹²

It will be evident from Goodloe’s testimony before A. O. Aladis, Commissioner, SCC, that he was more than just “a good Union man.” The testimony took place in July, 1871, and was recorded on 39 handwritten pages supported by 20 exhibits and the testimony of witnesses.¹³ He claimed damages based on the losses of mules, horses, jacks, beef cattle, sheep, hogs, bacon, corn, and two thoroughbred horses. The summary report follows:

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“Mr. Goodloe resided during the war on his farm near Tusculumbia, Ala. His farm contained about 1,600 acres. The exhibits filed in this case & marked A to L and 1 to 8 fully show that he was well-known to our Union officers & confided in them as a true Union man. He gave valuable information to Buell & Dodge & is highly praised by Genls. Wood and R.L. McCook. He was distrusted, watched, and threatened by the Confederates. See especially Exhibits D, H, 2 & Y. Senator Spencer & Mr. Sloss, Mbr. Cong., Ala., also fully attest to his loyalty. We find him loyal.

Claimed: \$27,218

We allow: 7,446”

Exhibit “H” is missing from the Goodloe SCC papers but it is indicated that it was a letter from Gen. R. L. McCook to Gen. W. S. Rosecrans. Exhibits “D,” “2” and “Y” are shown below:

“Head Qtrs, 2nd Division, Army of Ohio

Maj Genl D. C. Buell
U.S. Army

Genl

Permit me to introduce to your favorable consideration Mr. J. C. Goodloe a friend of mine. I will be responsible that Mr. Goodloe will act in good faith to any conditions imposed upon him for and inconsideration of the object desired.

I am yours respectfully
Your Obt Servant
A.M. McCook
Brig Genl U.S. Army”

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Note: Goodloe was questioned about “the object desired” in “D” and explained that the object was to get through the lines and Gen. Buell gave him a letter of recommendation to Grant.

“Nashville Tenn

May 30, 1864

Dear Hillair

This will be handed to you by Mr. Goodloe of Ala. He is going to Washington City and may stay a few days in Louisville. He is a most reliable loyal gentleman & has done signal service to his country during our unfortunate troubles, He is vouched for by all the federal officers who know him. Genl Dodge recently told me all about him. I will only add that Mr. Goodloe is recommended to us as a high county honorable gentleman.

I am truly yours

Lovell H. Rousseau
Maj Genl U.S. Army”

All officers and soldiers of this Command are hereby forbidden to trespass upon the property of J.C. Goodloe or molest his person under the severest penalty that can be inflicted for violating this order.

Geo. C. Smith
Brig Genl Cmdg”

The questioning of Mr. Goodloe was intended to confirm his loyalty and his losses and involved several areas of concern to the interrogator. These included the reasons for the many letters, safeguard orders and travel passes issued to him by general officers, his several trips through the lines to northern cities and ultimately, the circumstances and evaluation of his losses. The impressive list of general officers included D. C. Buell, G. M. Dodge, U. S. Grant, A. M. McCook, R. L. McCook, P. J. Osterhaus, L. H. Rousseau, G. C. Smith, and T. J. Wood. In response to the question, “Were you known personally to any of these high officers whose letters you have produced such as Grant and Thomas and Genl Buell?” He replied, “I knew Genl Thomas and Genl Buell very well and I knew Genl McCook and Genl Wood; and with everyone who has given me a letter I was personally acquainted before the war.” Three of the safeguard orders were from General Dodge and especially relevant to this paper as Dodge became Grant’s Western Campaign “spymaster” after Grant succeeded to command of the department of Tennessee in October 1862.¹⁴

Grant met Dodge for the first time in September 1862 and very soon began to depend on him during the planning of his first campaign against Vicksburg. In his study of Grant’s utilization of intelligence during the Civil War, William B. Feis writes:

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“Dodge created a secret service organization more elaborate and extensive than Grant probably imagined. Although he would send spies and scouts as far as Mobile and Atlanta, his primary responsibility was to watch the eastern flank of Grant’s department, especially the Tennessee River crossings, for Confederate reinforcements coming from Middle Tennessee.”¹⁵

The organization built by Dodge numbered more than 100 men. “Their names were carefully guarded and very little was ever revealed about any of them. Long after the war he kept inviolate both their names and their deeds, for some of them lived in the South and publicity concerning their exploits, even a quarter century afterward, would have brought opprobrium if not persecution. Even as late as 1909, when several magazine writers sought to secure information concerning them he was reluctant to comply, although most of them were in their graves.”¹⁶ With regard to Goodloe’s testimony, it was noted that there was no mention of his having any official arrangement with General Dodge.

The “valuable information given to Buell and Dodge” noted in the summary report above was elucidated in the questions about Exhibits “G,” “S,” “T,” and “U.” Exhibit G involved a trip Goodloe made to Huntsville at Gen. Buell’s request.

Q. What was it about?

A. The most of the talk was about the movement of the Army.

Q. Did he ask for information?

A. He asked me for information as to whether any force had come near the line of my section of the country, and particularly wanted to know my opinion in regard to what road the rebel force would take – those that had left Corinth.

Q. Did you tell him what you knew?

A. I told him what I thought and what I knew and I guessed it pretty well too.

Exhibits “S,” “T,” and “U” concerned three safeguards issued by General Dodge, April 18 – 23, 1863.

Q. Explain the paper marked “Exhibit S.” What time was that given you?

A. 1863.

Q. Who was General Dodge?

A. He was in the federal army and was in command at Corinth at that time.

Q. To whom did he refer when he said you had taken care of the dead and wounded?

A. He referred to Major Cameron who was killed near my home.

Q. When was “Exhibit T” given to you?

A. About the same date.

Q. Did he give you that when he was in the saddle?

A. Yes sir. Paper marked “Exhibit U” offered and put into evidence.

Q. Is this George E. Spenser the present senator from Alabama?

A. Yes sir. These other papers were made about the same time Streight made his raid.¹⁷ General Dodge sent for me to come to Corinth a week before and when I started the Confederate forces were there and I went to General Roddy to get a pass to go to Corinth to carry supplies to the wounded and needy who were left on neutral ground. My intention was to use the pass to get to Corinth. When I got across Bear Creek, I met with General Dodge and he advised me to get with one of the scouts and save my horses. I went around home but I got there late; they had beat me there. Then, when General Spencer came, I gave him a diagram of all the roads and he gave me that paper.

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Goodloe was questioned about some of the several trips he made up North as far as New York City just before and during the war. He apparently made two trips in 1861, one in 1862, and two in 1864, but provided little information about them other than the routes. He alleged that the purpose of at least one of the trips was to escort his nieces home from boarding school but one of the trips in 1864 provided an interesting but puzzling bit of information.

Exhibit "U" was signed: "By order of General G. M. Dodge, Geo. E. Spencer, Adjutant." Of the men mentioned in the above question and answer session, Major Cameron was, at that time, in command of the First Alabama Cavalry, U.S.A. Phillip Dale Roddy was Colonel at that time and commanded the 4th Alabama Cavalry, C.S.A. George E. Spencer was also Colonel at that time. He was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General in March, 1865.

The questioning of Goodloe continued:

Q. If you ever fought for the flag, state where and under what circumstances.

A. That was an accident. I was in Lexington, Kentucky, when Morgan made his last raid. ¹⁸ We were trying to get from Louisville to Cincinnati. We were cut off and returned to Frankfort, Kentucky, and were there when they made an impressment of the citizens to fight with the Fort there to defend Frankfort. I volunteered and went to the Fort and they put me in charge of the magazine.

Q. How long were you there?

A. Two days and one night.

Q. Was there any fighting?

A. Yes sir. We fought some. I was the first one that arrived in Washington after that affair happened, at least Mr. Lincoln said that it was the first information that he had direct from the battlefield.

The last statement offers the interesting possibility that Goodloe met personally with President Lincoln!

“I am 35 years old and reside in Decatur, Alabama. Am U.S. Senator from that State.

I first met Col. Goodlow (sic) in March, 1863. In Feb. or March, 1863, I was Adjutant General on Gen. Dodge’s Staff at Corinth, Miss. I went with a flag of truce to the Rebel lines. I knew Col. Goodlow by reputation before that time, as being a Union man. He was then living 9 miles inside the Federal lines, at Bear Creek. Thro’ persuasion and other means, I succeeded in having Gen. Raby’s? Head Quarters assigned to me. They were at Tusculmbia. We went to Col. Goodlow’s house and dined there, upon my suggestion, but he was not at home. We then went to the limits of the town of Tusculmbia. I was stopped by the Confederate Lt. Col. Gaines. They took me back to Col. Bright’s House. In the morning, Col. Goodlow came over to see me. We walked to one side, and talked over matters. It was generally understood by the Union men that he was our friend, and I talked to him as though he was a Union man. Goodlow got me a list of the Confederate regiments, and the strength of their forces. We were to start a few days after that on a raid. He got me a list of the regiments stationed on the South Side of the Tennessee River, and who the Commanding Officers were. I went to Corinth and got the information. I met Goodlow about half way there, and we went up there and had several fights. At one fight it was necessary for us to fall back. One of my favorite officers, Col. Campbell, was killed. Col. Goodlow took charge of the body and kept it until we carried it away. We went to see Goodlow often. We entertained him at our Head Quarters, at three different times. At that time, I was raising a regiment of Alabamians. The men used to tell me always, that Col. Goodlow would assist them in every way that he could. He rendered them every assistance in his power, and came very near getting himself shot in trying to keep one of

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our spies from getting hung. In the spring of 1863, when we left on that raid, some of our officers and men were left behind. The Rebels came up there, and Col. Goodlow secreted them in his house and kept them until the Rebels went away, and some of them escaped. This was reported to me at the time. I know Gen. Dodge entertained every confidence in him as a Union man. I did, also. We did not doubt it. I understood that he stood in bad order with the Confederates. I became acquainted with the Confederate Officers by means of a flag of truce.”

- Q. How many Federal troops did you have stationed at Corinth?
- A. Three brigades.
- Q. Did you have any men stationed at, or near Tuscumbia at this time?
- A. No, not nearer than 55 miles.
- Q. Did you have any stationed at or near Goodlow’s plantation?
- A. Only a day or two at a time.
- Q. Did you go to Corinth after Rosecrans had left that section of the country?
- A. After Rosecrans had left for the battle of Corinth, Gen. Dodge was sent to Tenn. Rosecrans was ordered to take command of the Cumberland Army.
- Q. How many men had Gen. Roddy?
- A. He had what was called a brigade. His command is very hard to estimate. I suppose he had as many as 10,000 men.
- Q. Do you recollect the number of Gen. Sweeney’s raid?
- A. We sent him up with his brigade, and put them in wagons, in order to get up all the stock we could get for the purpose of mounting infantry. Our command was entirely infantry when we first went there and we had to fight mounted men. We concluded we would try to get up stock enough to mount up a portion of our command. We sent Gen. Sweeney for the purpose of doing that,

Huntsville Historical Review, Vol. 32 [2007], No. 2, Art. 4 and succeeded in getting up stock to mount the 9th and 7th Illinois Infantry. In order to divert the attention of the enemy we concluded to lay the country [to] waste around Gen. Roddy and so make it untenable for him. We burned all the corn and fodder, and destroyed whatever we could. We laid the country [to] waste. We protected Goodlow. I remember his coming to Dodge and myself, and asking us for God's sake to go and destroy his corn and fodder and so protect him from the Rebels. We burned his fodder and hay.

Q. Do you think stragglers could have taken any stock there and disposed of it?

A. I don't think they could.

The next man to testify was Honorable Joseph H. Sloss, a member of Congress, who had served as a Captain in Co. F, 4th Alabama Cavalry, under Roddy. He began:

“I am 45 years of age. I live in Tuscumbia, Ala., and am a Representative in Congress from that Congressional District. I have known Col. Goodloe for 20 years. During the war I was in the Confederate army. I was on duty principally in North Ala., and most of the time within less than 15 miles of this place.”

Q Have you ever captured any yankee soldiers at his place?

A. I captured a yankee squad there one day. Some were in the house; some were outside. I captured all I could find and sent them off. I heard afterward that the Col. had some secreted in the house that I did not get. Col. Goodloe came to me and endeavored to persuade me not to capture them.

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- Q. What reason did he assign?
- A. I think he said his brother's family was there, and he did not want them captured at his house. My impression was that he did not want anybody captured. That was my impression of his secret feeling.
- Q. Did you know Robert Goodloe?
- A. Yes. He is the claimant's brother.
- Q. Did the claimant not tell you on that occasion that his daughters were there with a black man, alleging that against their arrest?
- A. Yes, I believe he did.
- Q. What was the reputation of Col. Goodloe during war times?
- A. He was known to be a Union man among the Confederate soldiers; that was our opinion of him.
- Q. Did you ever know him to do anything in aid of the Confederacy?
- A. I never did. I was camped within a short distance from his place. It was usual for the neighbors to invite the officers to their houses. I was invited to every house in the neighborhood but his. I was never invited there. We knew, without the possibility of a doubt, that he was against us.
- Q. Why did you not arrest him?
- A. We generally required some overt act before we took measures of that kind. Persons within the conscript age were taken, particularly if they were Union men. I know whenever we came near his place it was said to be the place of the Union Goodloe.
- Q. Did he have any sons?
- A. Yes, but if they were in the army, they were not in the division to which I belonged.
- Q. What are your politics now?
- A. I am a Democrat.
- Q. Did you ever know Mr. Goodloe to vote the Democrat ticket in that county?
- A. No, I have heard him say he never would.

To indicate that his residence was “said to be the place of the Union Goodloe” can be better understood by knowing that there was a William Henry Goodloe who served as a Corporal, Co. G, in the 3rd Tenn. (Forrest’s) Cavalry, and also a James Camp Goodloe who was a 1st Sergeant, Col. H., in the 4th Alabama Infantry.



JOHN CALVIN GOODLOE HOME (circa 1840)
Photographed for Historic American Buildings (HABS) Survey - 1936

Exhibit “R,” a letter from Robert C. Brinkley of Memphis, indicates Goodloe’s reputation was widespread. Robert Brinkley later became President of the Memphis – Little Rock Railroad.

“Huntsville, Ala
March 12 1863

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Dear Goodloe

On my way to this place I met with Col John D. Adams and Judge Walker of Arkansas and they informed me that the military authorities of the State had ordered the impression of all the negroes on your place and for government purposes alleging your disloyalty to the south as the reason for so doing. Can I serve you in any way? All well.

Your friend
R. C. Brinkley”

This letter referred to Goodloe’s place in Arkansas – a large plantation in Arkansas County, Arkansas.

The family of John Calvin Goodloe rejected the obvious conclusion that he was a spy for the Union. They insisted, on the contrary, that he was a spy for the Confederacy, but had convinced the Yankees that he was a Union man. This belief prevailed both **then** and **now**, and raises the obvious possibility that he was a double spy. The early evidence comes from John Calvin’s nephew, Albert T. Goodloe (1833-1912), who published a book on his wartime experience, *Confederate Echoes*, in 1907.¹⁹

Albert T. Goodloe graduated from the University of Virginia in 1850 and received his MD diploma from the medical college in Richmond in 1852. A resolute secessionist, he joined the 35th Alabama Infantry as a private in 1862 after what he called “the disastrous ‘Fall of Donelson’” and was eventually promoted to first lieutenant. After the war, he was called to the ministry with the Methodist Itinerancy and served in the Tennessee Conference for 38 years. In 1855, he married Sallie Louise Cockrill, a niece of John Calvin’s wife, Harriet Rebecca Turner. He was on his way back to his unit after a furlough in May, 1864, when he wrote:

“The first night was spent at Mrs. Acklen’s, the widow of Joseph H. Acklen, not far out of Nashville. Uncle Calvin Goodloe had come to Nashville, on his way to Washington, on secret service for Gen. Joseph E. Johnston,

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commanding the Confederate army in Georgia, and we had arranged to spend the night together at Mrs. Acklen's, where, indeed, Uncle Calvin was stopping for a time. He and Mrs. Acklen were old friends, and I had known her several years. He gave me the gratifying information, that the Yankees were not then occupying Florence, and that I could likely cross the Tennessee River there if I could soon reach there in safety.

As a part of the mission on which Uncle Calvin was embarked, he was to ascertain the strength and disposition of the Yankee army at Nashville, the location and character of the defenses, etc. This he had done effectually when we met at Mrs. Acklen's, and gave the facts to me to be communicated in person to Gen. Roddey or Col. Johnson of the Confederate cavalry in North Alabama, one of whom I would find at Southport, the steamboat and ferry landing on the south bank of the Tennessee River from Florence. He was then ready for his Washington trip and started right away.

His equipment for the entire expedition was letters of introduction and commendation to Abe Lincoln & Co. from prominent Yankee officers and 'Union' civilians; especially did he get well fixed up by Gen. Rousseau and other influential parties at Nashville. They were made to believe that he was 'truly loyal' to the Lincoln government, and that important business of his own was taking him to Washington.

He had been pulling the wool over the eyes of Yankee commanding officers ever since the invasion of North Alabama by Rosecran's army in the fall of 1862, and he captured them at the start with two decanters of fine brandy. As that army was approaching the Valley, though still in Mississippi, he mounted his horse and went to meet it with the decanters in his saddlebags. He sought out Gen. Rosecrans at once, to find out from him what the citizens might expect from the army as it passed through North Alabama. Rosecrans and his associate commanding

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officers were highly pleased with him – and his brandy; and ever after that he found no trouble in manipulating big Yankees.

Uncle Calvin followed the long-ago custom of taking ‘toddy’ at home, and of keeping fine liquors in a sideboard for himself and friends, but I never saw him intoxicated in the slightest. The brandy with which he captured the Yankees was from his sideboard.”

Mrs. Acklen, whose house outside of Nashville he referred to, was the former Mrs. Alicia Hayes Franklin, and her house is now known as the Belmont Mansion in Nashville, Tennessee. A young widow in 1846, she married Huntsville, Alabama attorney Joseph A.S. Acklen in 1849. They began the building of Belmont soon after their marriage and completed it in 1853.



Alicia Hayes Franklin Acklen, owner of Belmont
Photo courtesy of Belmont Mansion (www.belmontmansion.com)



“Bellemonte” (Beautiful Mountain) known today as “Belmont” in Nashville
Photo courtesy of Belmont Mansion (www.belmontmansion.com)



Belmont Mansion in Nashville as it looks today

Photo courtesy of Belmont Mansion (www.belmontmansion.com)

The timing of this event coincides with Goodloe's 1864 trip north when he participated in the defense of the raid at Frankfort, Kentucky. If he indeed was carrying "letters of introduction and commendation to Abe Lincoln & Co." it reinforces the possibility that he did meet President Lincoln on that trip.

And except for the type of liquor, Goodloe's hospitality, at least, is confirmed by Exhibit "E" to his testimony, a letter dated June 24, 1862, from Gen. Thomas J. Wood to Gen. W. Smith: "This note will introduce to you Mr. J. C. Goodloe, a friend and connection of mine, and for whom, he is a high-toned and honorable gentleman. I request your protection and kind offices. He has an interesting family and a nice place and soldiers ought not to be allowed to intrude. There is a small guard from my division at his place and he can give you, if you happen to be at his place at the right time, as good a drop of bourbon as can be found anywhere."

The current or "now evidence" comes from personal correspondence a few years ago with two descendants of John Calvin Goodloe who provided the following:

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“Now, as to John Calvin Goodloe...I have gone through all my info. that my grandfather had and can provide no absolute proof for you, but I grew up with the story about his being a spy. My grandfather was quite a historian himself and loved stories about his ancestors, especially involving the Civil War. What he told me was that John Calvin was a spy for the South but the North thought he was their spy. He was able to go back and forth across the lines with no problems because they all trusted him. When some big general (I don't remember the name) was marching through the South stealing cotton and other crops, burning homes, etc. John Calvin went around to all his neighbors and bought their land and crops for \$1.00. When the general came through, he told them it was all his land and crops and had the deeds to prove it. The general knew John Calvin well and left everything alone, including the homes. When all was saved (I guess at the end of the war), he sold it all back to the neighbors for the original \$1.00.

I know this story has got to be true...because my great-grandfather (William Henry Goodloe, who died in 1940) told the same story about his father to my grandfather. That's where my grandfather developed his love for history. Wm. H. also fought in the CW under Bedford Forrest. In fact, John Calvin tried to get Wm. H. to go to school in England to avoid the fighting, but Wm. H. instead enlisted with Forrest....so both men were men of honor and although I can't verify with a primary source, this is one family story that I feel is the truth.”

And the second family story:

“Regarding John Calvin Goodloe & the Civil War, I do not have any direct information. I did read somewhere, that I cannot find at present, that he opened his house to both sides during the war, but I took that to mean he just tried to get along with whoever was in town. Since both of his two eldest sons that I know of (my grandfather, James Camp Goodloe I and William Henry Goodloe) were in the Confederate army, I doubt that he would be aiding and abetting the Union. The three youngest sons were probably too young to be in the army. I do not have information as to whether the other son, another David Short Goodloe, was in the fighting or not. He died in 1866 at age 20. I am not familiar with the book *Confederate Echoes*. William Henry Goodloe’s obituary does say that his father offered him an education in England if he stayed out of the war, which of course he did not.”

Of course, the above statement concerning the dichotomy between Goodloe and his two sons does not “hold water.” It is well known that one of the great tragedies of Civil War was the disruption or tearing apart of families.

The controversy over John Calvin Goodloe’s loyalty, however, was not mitigated by his enterprise after the war. He was elected as a Republican or “scalawag” to the Alabama state senate for a two year term in 1872 and is listed as a member of the State Republican Executive Committee for 1874 and December 29, 1875.²⁰ In these pursuits, he was promoted by Senator George E. Spencer who was probably Alabama’s most notorious carpetbagger. Spencer was first elected in 1868 and served until 1879.

The terms scalawag and carpetbagger were coined after the Civil War and although used interchangeably in many cases, they are actually quite different. Scalawag came into frequent use in Alabama in late 1867 as a designation for the Southern white Republican who had been born in the South or had lived in the South before the Civil War. The term carpetbagger was applied to the Northerner who went South to take advantage of unsettled conditions after the Civil War.

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Some of the machinations are described by Sarah Woolfolk Wiggins²⁰ and more recently by Charles M. Crook:²¹

“The 1872 elections were also crucially important to the personal fortunes of George E. Spencer, Alabama’s radical Republican senator and President Grant’s friend and ally. Spencer was a New Yorker who had lived for a time in Iowa and then served in the Union army. He remained in Alabama [practicing law in Decatur] after the war to seek his ‘chances of making a fortune.’ The radicals soon made Spencer one of Alabama’s first post-bellum U.S. senators and he became the classic carpetbagger. Even the most generous modern Alabama historians describe him as the ‘champion of chicanery’ in his pursuit of political power.²² In order to gain complete control of federal patronage in the state, Spencer derailed the election of fellow Republican Senator, Willard Warner, in 1870 by conspiring for the election of a Democratic legislature. The plot succeeded and Warner was defeated. Needing a job, Warner persuaded Grant to nominate him as Collector of the Mobile Customs House, a position with considerable influence over federal patronage. Spencer again maneuvered against his fellow Republican, this time convincing Grant to withdraw Warner’s nomination in early 1872 and thereby finally securing his own position as primary broker of federal patronage in Alabama. Spencer’s own senatorial term was about to end, however, and in the following months he worked to reverse his machinations of 1870, this time seeking the election of a Republican legislature that would then reelect him to the U.S. Senate. Spencer and Grant thus shared a strong interest in achieving a Republican victory in Alabama in 1872.”

These political shenanigans lasted for most of the decade in Alabama and embraced a battle between carpetbaggers, scalawags and blacks for the control of the federal patronage in Alabama.²³ The Spencer-Goodloe

“relationship,” however, rose again in 1874 in another contest over the position of Collector of the Mobile Customs House. Fitzgerald indicates that the position did indeed have its advantages in that “earning a \$5000 salary, the collector controlled as many as 50 employees; the position allowed valuable business contacts, not to mention the fiscal incentives available to unscrupulous officials.”²⁴ Wiggins describes the situation:²⁵

“On another occasion the scalawags were more successful in securing an important bit of patronage for a carpetbagger who had cooperated closely with them. Robert McConnell Reynolds, formerly of Ohio and an eight-year resident of Alabama, replaced scalawag William Miller as Collector of Customs in Mobile (Miller had been reinstated in the position after the Warner debacle). The change was so vehemently denounced that it was described as ‘raising the devil’ in Alabama. Eventually, the difficulties were resolved when Reynolds received appointment as minister to Bolivia in 1874, and John C. Goodloe, Colbert County scalawag and a Spencer protégé, became collector of customs.”

John Calvin Goodloe held the collector’s position until replaced by President Hayes in 1877 when he presumably returned to his plantation in Colbert County where he lived until his death, 25 February 1895. Goodloe had been born 21 May 1817, one of six children of David Short Goodloe (1776 – 1854) and Mary Hill Goodloe (1781 – 1831) who moved from Granville County, North Carolina, to Tuscumbia, Alabama, ca. 1820, where a seventh child was born. A successful businessman and financier, he was instrumental in building the railroad link from Tuscumbia to Decatur, a part of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad (now Norfolk Southern Railway), in which he became a large stockholder. In 1837, he sold his business interests in Tuscumbia and purchased a large plantation near where the Natchez Trace crosses the Tennessee River in Western Franklin (became Colbert in 1868) County.²⁶

John Calvin was educated at LaGrange College in Alabama and married Harriet Rebecca Turner (21 November 1821 - 12 November 1900), daughter of Sugars Turner and Rebecca Deloney Turner in Huntsville, <https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol32/iss2/4>

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Alabama, 1 November 1838. He built the large plantation home (ca. 1840) which was photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1935, but is no longer standing.

The 1860 Federal Census for Franklin County, Alabama, shows John Calvin Goodloe's assets: Value of Real Estate - \$40,000; Value of Personal Property - \$110,000; Slaves - 100. He provided the following information about his plantations before the war in Alabama and Arkansas during his testimony before the SCC:

Alabama Plantation:

1600 acres – 1200 cleared
120 – 130 head of stock
800 sheep
1000 hogs
100 cattle

Arkansas Plantation:

1600 acres – 800 cleared
50 or 60 mules and horses
500 hogs
500 cattle
130 negroes

A newspaper obituary of J. C. Goodloe said, in part:²⁷

“His father removed with his family in 1823 from North Carolina to Alabama and settled in the town of Tuscumbia, where the deceased was raised and educated. Thus, at the time of his death, J. C. Goodloe had been a citizen of the State for a period of seventy-two years.

On reaching manhood, he became prominent and, ultimately, notable, in the social and public history of the Valley of the Tennessee. Endowed by nature with a strong and commanding intellect, he exercised a potent and controlling influence for upward of fifty years. He was a

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man of strong prejudices and indomitable will; his opinions
on all matters were pronounced. Socially he was affable
and attractive, a warm friend but an unconcealed adversary.
Charity was one of his conspicuous characteristics and the
poor never failed in their appeals to him....”

With regard to the question of John Calvin Goodloe’s loyalty, it is evident that General Dodge was very intelligent and a thorough professional, and it is difficult to believe that he could be misled to any great extent, if at all. The available evidence suggests that John Calvin Goodloe may have been a double spy, but contrary to the belief of his descendants, his primary loyalty was to the Union.

Happily, the research also afforded lagniappes: the portraits of John Calvin Goodloe and his wife, Harriet Rebecca Turner Goodloe, were painted about 1847 by the Austrian artist, William Frye. The sheet music, *Alabama Waltz* (copyright 1835) which is comprised of three pages, was found in an antique store in Huntsville, Alabama in 1991, and traced to its origin in Lexington, Kentucky, where the young Miss Turner was apparently in attendance at a boarding school.

“The composer, Wilhelm Iucho, was born in Germany around 1803 and came to Lexington from New York in the early 1830s. The first record of his presence in Lexington is an announcement in 1834 by *The Lexington Intelligencer* that Iucho, a professor of music from New York, would be in charge of the music department of the Van Doren Collegiate Institute, a school for young ladies. Iucho contributed more to the development of Lexington’s music than any other individual before 1840. He was not only active as a teacher, but was also an organist, composer, music store proprietor and lecturer. He contributed to two music journals – *The Euterpeiad* and the *Family Minstral* and more than thirty of his compositions were published during his approximately twenty years in Lexington, two going into sixth editions.”²⁸

THE ALABAMA WALTZ

Composed and Dedicated

To

Miss Barriet R. Turner

from Huntsville, Alabama

BY

WILLIAM H. FIRTH

New York Firth & Hall, 1. Franklin Sq.

MODERATO

p *Cres*

... en ... do *f*

Entered according to the Act of Congress in the year 1855, by Firth & Hall, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of N.Y.

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Alabama Waltz". The score is arranged in two systems, each containing two staves (treble and bass clef). The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The second system features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The third system concludes with a first ending bracket and a repeat sign. The fourth system starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The fifth system includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The sixth system concludes with a first ending bracket and a repeat sign. The title "Alabama Waltz" is printed at the bottom right of the page.

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3

The image shows a page of sheet music for the piano piece "A Good Union Man" by Norman Shapiro. The page is numbered "3" in the top right corner. The music is arranged in six systems, each consisting of a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic in the bass staff and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic in the treble staff. The second system features a piano (*p*) dynamic in the treble staff. The third system also features a piano (*p*) dynamic in the treble staff. The fourth system features a piano (*p*) dynamic in the bass staff. The fifth system features a piano (*p*) dynamic in the bass staff. The sixth system features a forte (*f*) dynamic in the bass staff and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic in the treble staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the sixth system.

Alabama Waltes.

(Sheet music courtesy Norman Shapiro)

END NOTES

¹ Markle, Donald E., *Spies & Spymasters of the Civil War* (New York: Hippocrene Books, 1994) p. xvi.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Storey, Margaret M., *Loyalty and Loss – Alabama Unionists in the Civil War and Reconstruction* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2004), p. 30.

⁵ Ibid, Chapter 4, 5.

⁶ Shapiro, Norman M., “Saints and Sinners,” *The Huntsville Historical Review*, Vol. 31, No. 2, (Summer-Fall 2006), pp. 9-26.

⁷ Storey, Chapters 3, 4.

⁸ *Southern Claims Commission Approved Claims; 1871-1880: Alabama*, National Archives Microfilm Publication M2062, The National Archives, Washington, D.C. The federal government established this Commission on March 3, 1871 to allow individuals to file claims for losses due to actions by Confederate or Union activities during the Civil War. Each person filing a claim had to prove their loyalty and losses to the Union through testimony, witnesses, and documentation.

⁹ Storey, pp. 147, 148.

¹⁰ *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. XXXII, Part III, p. 482.

¹¹ *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. XXXI, Part I, p. 676.

¹² *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. XXXI, Part I, p. 714.

¹³ *Southern Claims Commission Approved Claims: 1871-1880: Alabama*, Roll 5: Colbert County.

¹⁴ Grenville Mellen Dodge was born in Danvers, Massachusetts 12 April 1831. Prominent as a combat commander, railroad builder and land developer, he also served in Congress from Iowa, 1865-1869. Dodge ranks with the most versatile of Civil War generals. He earned a diploma as a military and civil engineer from Norwich University in 1851. He was commissioned colonel of the 4th Iowa Infantry in 1861 and was soon given command of a brigade in the Army of Southwest Missouri. Dodge had three horses shot under him and was wounded in the side at the Battle of Pea Ridge. He earned the favor of General Grant and other commanders for his skill in rebuilding railroads and organizing espionage networks. He led the XVI Corps of the Army as a major general in the Atlanta Campaign where he was again severely wounded. After the war, he became chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad and was a driving force in the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

¹⁵ Feis, William B., *Grant's Secret Service – The Intelligence War from Belmont to Appomattox* (Lincoln & London: University of Nebraska Press, 2002), pp. 126, 127.

¹⁶ Perkins, J. R., *Trails, Rails and War – The Life of G. M. Dodge*, (Indianapolis: The Bibbs-Merrill Company, 1929), p. 105.

¹⁷ Colonel Abel D. Streight led a provisional brigade on a raid to cut the Western & Atlantic Railroad that supplied Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army in Middle Tennessee. From Nashville, Tennessee, Streight's command traveled to Eastport, Mississippi, and then proceeded east to Tuscumbia, Alabama, in conjunction with another Union force commanded by Brig. Gen. Grenville Dodge. On April 26, 1863, Streight's men left Tuscumbia and marched southeast, their initial movements screened by Dodge's troops. On April 30, Confederate Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's brigade caught up with Streight's expedition and attacked its rearguard at Day's Gap on Sand Mountain. The Federals repulsed this attack and continued their march to avoid further delay and envelopment. After a running series of skirmishes and engagements, Forrest finally surrounded the exhausted Union soldiers near Rome, Georgia, where he forced their surrender on May 3.

¹⁸ Two earthen forts, Fort Boone and the larger Fort New Redoubt, were constructed by army engineers and civilian labor on the strategic heights overlooking the Kentucky River at Frankfort in 1863. On June 10, 1864, Union troops and local militia occupying Fort Boone successfully repulsed an attack on Frankfort by a contingent of Gen. John Hunt Morgan's Confederate cavalry and kept the city from falling into Confederate hands a second time.

¹⁹ Goodloe, Albert T., *Confederate Echoes, A Soldier's Personal Story of Life in the Confederate Army from the Mississippi to the Carolinas* (Nashville: Smith & Lamar, 1907), pp. 364-366.

²⁰ Wiggins, Sarah Woolfolk, *The Scalawag in Alabama Politics, 1865 – 1881* (University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1977), pp. 144, 145, 148.

²¹ Crook, Charles M., "The Barbour County Background to the Election of 1872 and Alabama's Dual Legislatures," *The Alabama Review*, October 2003, p. 243.

²² Roger, William, et al., *Alabama: The History of a Deep South State* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1994), p. 250.

²³ Fitzgerald, Michael W., "Republican Factionalism and Black Empowerment: The Spencer-Warner Controversy and Alabama Reconstruction, 1868 – 1800," *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 64, August 1998, pp. 473-494.

²⁴ Fitzgerald, p. 476.

²⁵ Wiggins, p. 89.

²⁶ Goodloe, Paul Miller, *Goodloe Genealogy*, (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1982), published for the author, p. E-87.

²⁷ Goodloe, P.M., p. E-119.

²⁸ Carden, Joy, *Music in Lexington before 1840*, published by the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1980.

