

“Poor is a nation that has no heroes. Poorer still is one that has them and forgets them”

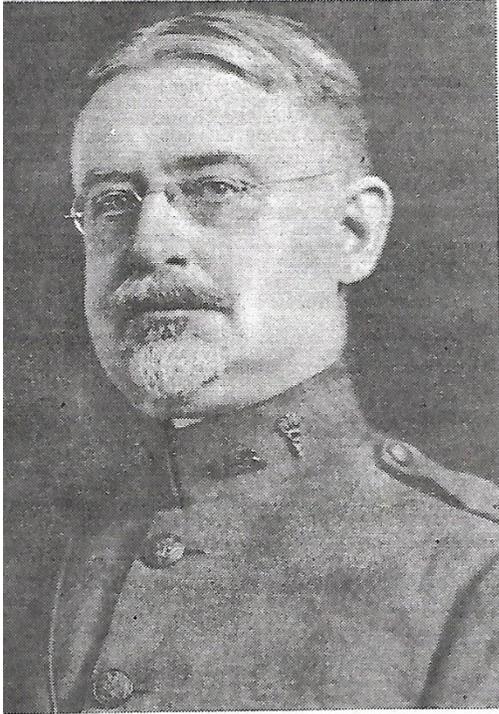
-- Winston Churchill

I consider myself blessed to have numerous direct ancestors who served in America’s wars—the Revolution, the Quasi-War with France, the War of 1812, the Spanish American War, the Mexican-American War, and, yes, the War Between the States. My Great Grandfathers served our country with pride and dignity.

As this is a column for our Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable, I will concentrate on my Grandfathers who served in that effort. I will begin with my Grandfather Junius Lynch who although he was not alive during the Civil War, was very proud of his connection with Colonel John S. Mosby, CSA.

John Shaw Lynch, Lt. Col., USAF

Junius Francis Lynch, M.D. – Grandfather (1865-1932)



I was fortunate to have had my Grandfather reside in our household although I was very young at the time. Junius Francis Lynch, M.D. practiced medicine in Norfolk, Virginia for over thirty five years. Junius enlisted in the Virginia National Guard as a young man and rose from the ranks to become its surgeon general in 1910. Inheriting a fondness for military service, he volunteered for service on the Mexican border in 1916. During WW I, he went to the front with the Rainbow Division. Lt. Colonel Lynch continued his volunteer service home in Norfolk when he eventually became Commander of the Department of Virginia, American Legion. He traveled throughout the state promoting to posts promoting the general welfare of the Legion. A founder of the Tidewater Post, he was Commander Emeritus at the time of his death. He donated his ocean front beach home to

American Legion Post 37, now known as Lynch Anchorage. He married Lucy Virginia Kemper, daughter of General James Lawson Kemper, CSA and Governor of Virginia following the War.

He was very proud that he was able to attend to the medical needs of Colonel John S. Mosby in his elderly years – his only request for services – a signed picture of one he revered.

James Lawson Kemper, Maj. Gen. CSA – Great Grandfather (1823-1895)



To me, General Kemper was the ultimate example of service to state and country. Serving in the Virginia House of Delegates, fields of combat in the Confederate army, and as Governor of Virginia, he dedicated the better part of his life to Virginia and Virginians.

General Kemper's family first came to Virginia when his great great grandfather, John George Kemper, moved to Germanna Virginia in 1714 to work in the mines. He later

located in Fauquier County where he purchased and set up his family in about 1720.

General Kemper's grandfather was raised in a family speaking German. In 1783, he fell off of a horse and died leaving six children. His son, William Kemper moved the family to Madison County Virginia in the 1790s. General Kemper was born in Mt Prospect, the family plantation, in Madison County Virginia in 1823 and entered Washington College (which later became Washington and Lee) at the age of sixteen, graduated in 1842 and pursued the study of law. General Kemper volunteered in the Mexican War during 1846 and 1848 and later returned to his law practice in Madison County Virginia.

Among his seven siblings, Frederick Kemper moved to Missouri and was to be the founder of the Kemper Military Academy in Booneville, Missouri. John Stadler Kemper (named after his great grandfather who served under General George Washington) enlisted in the Confederacy as a Private in the 82nd Regiment, Company C, of the Virginia Militia.

In 1853, Grandfather Kemper married Cremona "Belle" Cave, the sixteen year old daughter of a local planter and that same year was elected to the House of Delegates. He and Belle had seven children with Belle dying of childbirth following the last. Following her death, he moved the family to Walnut Hills in Orange County Virginia. He served five terms in the Virginia House of Delegates and was Speaker of the House from 1861 to 1863.

Upon the beginning of the war he volunteered for service, was commissioned a Colonel in the 7th Virginia Infantry, the youngest brigade commander in the Confederacy. Promoted to Brigadier General after the Battle of Seven Pines-Fair Oaks, Kemper commanded a brigade in General George Pickett's Virginia Division.

General Kemper was horribly wounded at Cemetery Ridge during Pickett's Charge, was taken prisoner until 1863 when he was exchanged for Union General Charles K. Graham. Unable to return to battle because of his wounds, he was promoted to Major General in 1864 and commanded the Virginia Reserve Forces until May of 1865 when he was paroled.

Still active in public service, General Kemper became the first elected Governor of Virginia following the war in 1873. With the support of fellow Confederates Jubal Early, Fitzhugh Lee and John S. Mosby, he won by a nice margin of over 25,000 votes. Kemper served as Governor until 1877.

Governor Kemper concentrated on budget issues and paid off Virginia's large war debt. He also championed education and prison reform. He governed with a small staff using his son, Meade, as his Secretary. Having lost his wife, Belle, following his Governorship, Kemper moved his family to Walnut Hills in Orange County Virginia where he practiced law until his death in 1895.

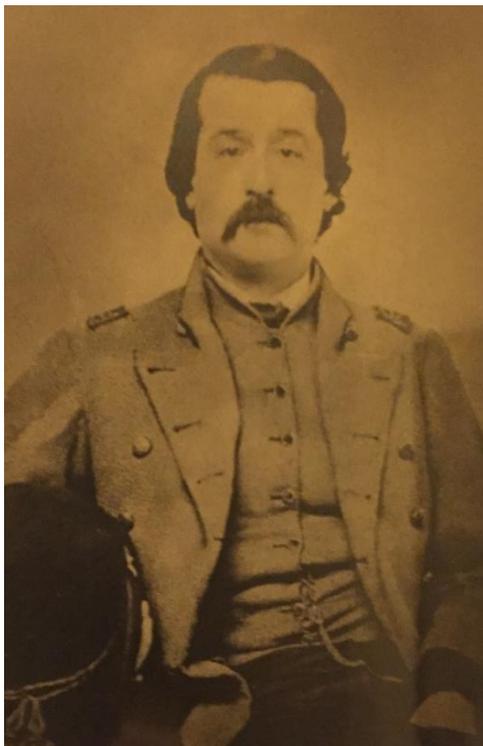
At the end of his term he left Richmond trailing a train of six children, personal papers, “ponies, pet goats, a pack of dogs, and other animal life his family cherished.”

I think this letter to his young boys during the war is sweet.

“My dear little boys,

I am having made in Gordonsville a nice little saddle and bridle for the pony...they will arrive by the stage in a few days. They cost in all seven dollars.....Be very particular to teach him to carry a high head...always ride him with a tolerably tight rein so as to make him carry his head high. Also feed him in a high trough always. Don't fail to attend to these things. Be kind and very gentle with the pony and he will soon learn to be good to you.”

Colonel Frank E. Lynch – Great Grandfather (1831 – 1870-75)



Francis Edward Lynch was born in 1832 to William Francis and Virginia Shaw Lynch.

In 1848, at the age of fifteen, he was able to accompany his father, Commodore William Francis Lynch, during his circumnavigation and expedition to the Dead Sea and River Jordan. Following the expedition he studied medicine at Georgetown College.

Francis Edward married Mary Knox Buford of Montgomery Alabama. They had three sons: Junius F., Buford and John Shaw. Colonel Lynch passed away between 1870 and 1875 at a very early age.

Like his father, Frank joined the Confederacy. He fought in the Western Theater and eventually became Chief Surgeon for General Joseph Wheeler's Calvary Corps. He achieved the rank of Colonel, several grades higher than the usual rank of Major for senior surgeons at the time.

Captain William Francis Lynch –Great, Great Grandfather – (1801 – 1865)



William Francis Lynch born in Norfolk, Virginia in 1801 to John Francis Lynch and Mary Anne “Polly” Drinnane Lynch. His parents were married in the Portsmouth Episcopal Church. His father was a merchant who, in 1804, moved the family to Petersburg, Va operating a retail women’s clothing store. His mother died in 1815 and his father remarried. William Francis was home taught and enrolled at Georgetown College, 1816-18. Georgetown, in 1844, presented him with an Honorary Masters degree. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1819 as a midshipman from Virginia. He saw service aboard the USS Congress, USS Shark, USS Washington, USS Beagle, USS Hornet and, in 1925 he served as First Officer Lt. aboard the USS Brandywine.

In 1828, as a newly promoted Lieutenant, He married Virginia Shaw, daughter of Commodore John Shaw, (grandfather for which I am named) an Irish immigrant, who was commissioned a Lieutenant in the US Navy in 1798 and went on to have a most distinguished career.

In 1837-38 he served on the USS Fulton, the first Naval steamship under Capt. M. C. Perry.

Lieutenant Lynch served in the West Indies Squadron under the command of Commodore David Porter being actively engaged in suppressing piracy in the region, serving there until 1828. Following came numerous assignments, but when war broke out with Mexico in 1847, he was assigned to the Gulf Squadron



La Societe de Geographic Medaille d’Argent Award presented to William Francis Lynch in Paris 11 March 1851

supporting the landings at Vera Cruz.

On May 8, 1847, Lieutenant Lynch wrote Secretary of the Navy John Y. Mason requesting permission to circumnavigate and map the Dead Sea and River Jordan and on May 27th was ordered to begin the task of outfitting the expedition. He was authorized to procure specialized equipment, a ship and to choose one petty officer and twelve seamen for the actual expedition. His fifteen year old son, Francis Edward, was to be in charge of the herbarium.

On April 21, 1861, then Captain Lynch left the U.S. Navy and joined the Confederate Navy. He was appointed commander of the naval defenses of Virginia and North Carolina. From May 29 – June 1, he took part in the Aquina Creek Landing. His flagship and seven other vessels were given the task of defending Roanoke Island against the superior Union fleet. Following Roanoke Island, he was assigned to the Mississippi River defenses, then back to North Carolina and

finally was assigned to the Richmond River defenses. He surrendered to the Union Army at Richmond in May of 1865.

William Francis lived out his last days at his home in Frederick, Maryland. He passed away on October 17, 1865, a little over five months after being released on parole.

Sixty four years old when he died, William Francis is buried in Greenmont Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland.

Several books have been written on William



Francis' expedition in 1848: "Sailors in the Holy Land", by Captain Andrew C. A. Jampoler and "Bitter Waters, America's Forgotten Naval Mission to the Dead Sea" by David Howard Bain. In addition, is Commander Lynch's official account published in 1949 by Lea and Blanchard in Philadelphia.

Ceremonial walking stick presented to William Francis Lynch for his service in the Confederate Navy

Captain Belfield Cave, II -- Great Grandfather (Maternal) (1794-1885)

Captain Belfield Cave, II was born in Madison County, Virginia on 26 May 1794 and died there in 1885 at the age of 91 years. In 1832, Belfield married Cremona Jones, also of Madison County and they had three children. He was the father of my Great Grandmother Cremona "Belle" Cave Kemper. He served as a longtime Clerk of the Court in Madison County. He was granted Parole by President Johnson on 4 September 1865. A farmer, he lived his life in Madison County Virginia.

Benjamin Belfield Cave -- Great Uncle (Cremona Cave's brother) (1846-1887)

Benjamin Cave was born in Madison County Virginia, the brother of my great grandmother, Cremona Cave. After a short time as a member of the Cadet Corps at the Virginia Military Institute in 1862, he returned back to Madison County. As an 18 year old farmer, he enlisted on March 27, 1864 at Orange Courthouse, Virginia as a Private in "K" Co. VA 2nd Cavalry. He was twice wounded initially at Beaver Dam, Virginia on May 10, 1864, and again on October 10, 1864. He spent some time in hospitals in Richmond and Charlottesville, Virginia. He was paroled on May 20, 1865.

Benjamin was married to Emma Gold Hill, daughter of Colonel (?) F. H. Hill of Madison County Virginia on April 17, 1869. They had two children. Benjamin died on September 9, 1887 and is buried at Piedmont Episcopal Church Cemetery, Madison County, Virginia.

John Stadler Kemper -- Great Uncle (James Lawson Kemper's brother) (1823-1887)

Private, 82nd Regular Virginia Militia, Company C, (M382, Roll 31)

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