

**Tenacious Ties**

17 Treasure Creek

Greenbrier, AR 72058

► Altman Final Report

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**Mr. Altman,**

As per our discussion and email, I began the process of trying to determine the parentage of William J. Altman and uncovering any information available about his life. In addition, as we also discussed, I planned to confirm, through documentation, that William is, in fact, your direct ancestor before moving on to the next generation. Through the information you provided, the information gleaned from your mother, Evelyn Hartsfield Altman's research, and a search of the records available within the scope of your request, William J. Altman and Ali K. Whaley can be positively documented as your 2nd great grandfather and grandmother. Because this document is being sent electronically, a copy of this report and collection of documents and sources will be delivered at our next meeting per our agreement.

This report will document William J. Altman through a cursory search of the records available based on the parameters you set for this initial phase of research. Through the use of personal family papers, online databases, and family files ordered from various historical societies, the information gathered about William J. Altman is as follows:

### William J. Altman

1. William J. Altman can be found in the 1860 United States (U.S.) Federal Census. He appears with his wife Aley on page 17, lines 37-38, in the Marion County, South Carolina census, enumerated on 6 June 1860.<sup>1</sup> William is identified as a 21 year-old farmer, born in South Carolina. The value of his personal estate is listed at \$250, with no real estate value. Aley is 16 and was born in South Carolina. There is no indication if they were married within the year, if either attended school, or that they could not read or write. Further research indicates that they are living next door to Aley's sister Anna Elizabeth, her husband John McDaniel and daughter V. E. McDaniel.<sup>2</sup> The information in this census record provides an approximate birth date of 1839 for William and 1844 for Aley. William is a farmer with no listed real estate value, however, his brother-in-law, and next-door neighbor, John McDaniel, does have a real estate value listing, therefore further research into land records for John McDaniel, may lead to a fairly accurate location for William and Aley's home site.

2. 1870 is the last appearance of William J. Altman in the U.S. Federal Census. He is listed on lines 11-16, on page 14 in the Rowell Township in the County of

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<sup>1</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Marion County, South Carolina, Schedule 1-Free Inhabitants in Marion, page 17, dwelling 127, family 127, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 July 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 1,438.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. John and William served together in I Company, 21<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. John McDaniel served as a 3rd Sgt., I Company, 21<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Infantry Regiment. He was captured at Petersburg and died in Elmira Prison. William's service will be discussed later in this report. Virginia Proctor, "Surnames 'Mc/Mac'," *Volunteers in the Confederate Army from Marion County, SC*; available online from [http://http://sciway3.net/proctor/marion/military/wbts/CSA\\_Marion\\_SC\\_W.html](http://http://sciway3.net/proctor/marion/military/wbts/CSA_Marion_SC_W.html); Internet; accessed 23 February 2013.

Marion, South Carolina with his wife Aley K. age 25, and children Susan E. age 8, John G.H. age 5, Julia A. age 3, and Georgianna age 1.<sup>3</sup> William appears as a 30-year-old farmer with no real-estate property and \$1167 in personal property. Aley is listed as keeping house; however, in this census she has been designated as unable to read or write. All members of the family were reported to have been born in South Carolina. William and Aley lived next door to Aley's parents, John H. and Susan Whaley.

3. By 1880, Aley K. Altman, age 37, and her children, Susan E. age 19, John H. age 14, George Anne, age 11, and Mary age 4, are listed in the home of Aley's mother Susan Whaley. They are found on lines 29-33, page 8, of the Rowell Township, Marion County South Carolina, U.S. Federal census.<sup>4</sup> Both William Altman and John Whaley died before the 1880 census was taken. It is presumed that both men are buried alongside their families in the Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery; however, no marker exists for either man. William is said to have died from his injuries during the war.<sup>5</sup> His relationship to Aley is notated on her headstone.

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<sup>3</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Marion County, South Carolina, Rowell Township, Schedule 1-Inhabitants in Marion, page 14, dwelling 117, family 122, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 July 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M593, roll 1,503.

<sup>4</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Marion County, South Carolina, Rowell Township, Schedule 1-Inhabitants in Marion, page 8, Enumeration District 101, dwelling 70, family 70, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 July 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication T9, roll 1,235.

<sup>5</sup> W.W. Sellers, Esq., *A History of Marion County, South Carolina: From It's Earliest Times to Present, 1901* (Washington: The R.L. Bryan, Company, 1902), 456-457.

Based on the age of his daughter Mary, we can assume that William lived until at least 1875.

4. William can also be identified in the South Carolina *Militia Enrollments of Men Between the Ages of 18 and 30 For Marion District*. Listed as Altman, W.J., a 30 year-old farmer from the Friendship area of Rowell Township, in Marion.<sup>6</sup> This age and occupation are consistent with William. In addition, Aley's burial place is located in Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery, in Friendship, in Marion County South Carolina, with her family, with "wife of Lieut. W.J. Altman" inscribed on her headstone, which also places William and Aley in the area.<sup>7</sup>

5. William's Civil War record is documented in the same manner as other soldiers, through enlistment cards, muster rolls, and hospital records. W. J. Altman enlisted as a Corporal, Co. I, 21st S.C. Infantry on 20 December 1861 at Britton's Neck (in the Marion District) at the age of 22.<sup>8</sup> One year later, he was promoted to 4SGT; his brother-in-law, J.R. McDaniel, is mentioned on his muster card.<sup>9</sup> On 18 June 1863, he was elected 2 Lieutenant, and promoted from 4SGT to 2LT in August

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<sup>6</sup> 1869 Militia Enrollments of Men Between the Ages of 18 and 30 for Marion County, Marion County, South Carolina, Rowell Township, page 76, line 1, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov>) : accessed 20 July 2013), Series S192021, Volume 0018.

<sup>7</sup> "Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery Database," (<http://www.findagrave.com>) : accessed 20 July 2013), entry for A. K. Whaley.

<sup>8</sup> "Civil War Records for W. J. Altman," National Archives, digital images, *Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Confederate Organizations*, compiled 1903 - 1927, documenting the period 1861 - 1865 ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)/image/84535524/ accessed : 20 July 2013), page 2.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. 7.

1863.<sup>10</sup> He was wounded twice, once in the leg on 19 August 1863 at Battery Wagner, on Morris Island, S.C., and once in the neck on 16 May 1864 at Wilmington, N.C.<sup>11</sup> Of particular note are two letters written during his service. The first, is a letter written by him on 24 February, 1864 from James Island, S.C., recounting the action on Morris Island on 11 July 1863.

Camp DuBose 21st SCVol  
Jas Island Feby 24th 1864

I do hereby certify that I was on Morris on the 11th of July 1863 and in command of Co. I 21st SC Vols when the enemy made a sudden attack with overwhelming forces and compelled our forces to fall back behind Battery Wagner where we were closely besieged for a length of time. That the quarters of Capt. F.E. Stanley [alas] were in front of the Battery [next to] the enemy [and that] the confusion resulting from such a sudden attack will satisfactorily account for any loss of papers or property on the part of Capt. Stanley.

W.J. Altman  
2Lieut. Co I 21st S.C. Vols.<sup>12</sup>

The fight for Fort Wagner/Battery Wagner on Morris Island, in which 5000 Union soldiers attacked and were repeatedly repelled by 1800 Confederate troops, lasted 59 days from 10 July 1863-7 September 1863,<sup>13</sup> during which time William was injured while fighting on 19 August 1863. Following his injury at Battery Wagner, a report by Col. Lawrence M. Keitt, describes Lt. Altman's actions. He writes:

Headquarters, Battery Wagner

August 20, 1863.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 10.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. 11.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. 39.

<sup>13</sup> Fort Wagner, online <[http:// http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/battery-wagner.html?tab=facts](http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/battery-wagner.html?tab=facts)> Accessed: 20 July 2013.

CAPTAIN: I had the honor yesterday of reporting affairs to you up to 7 p.m. The picket in the rifle-pit reported that they had, during the day fired upon two suspicious men dressed in brownish-gray, without arms, in the marsh about 500 yards off. In posting the new picket, the enemy fired some 20 shots on them, very slightly wounding Lieutenant [W. J.] Altmon, Company I, Twenty-first South Carolina, who, however, remained on duty and held his ground.<sup>14</sup>

After a brief furlough for his leg injury, William returned to duty and joined the 21st S.C. Volunteers as they proceeded north. He was wounded in the neck on 16 May 1864. During this time his unit was deployed in defense of Richmond at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff. Once again, the confederate forces with which Lt. Altman served, held strong and repelled the Union advance.<sup>15</sup> On May 31st, William received a sixty-day furlough to return to the Marion District of S.C.<sup>16</sup> While he draws pay on 12 January 1865, there is no other indication that he ever returned to active service.<sup>17</sup>

6. The most widely held ancestry for William is Thomas Altman. In the book *A History of Marion County*, by W.W. Sellers, he writes, "James D. Altman is the son of Thomas Altman, who married Elizabeth Dozier; had three sons and two daughters; the sons were William, John, and James D. Altman. William and John both died in the war; one of disease the other from wounds received - he died at home."<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Lieut. Col. Robert N. Scott, compiler, *The War of the Rebellion; A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* Series I, Vol. 28, part 1, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890), 476.

<sup>15</sup> Drewry's bluff and 21st history

<sup>16</sup> "Civil War Records for W. J. Altman," 30

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. 35.

<sup>18</sup> Sellers, 456-457.

After a search of available census, land, and other miscellaneous files, this researcher has found no link for William to Thomas. Because the state of South Carolina did not begin to require birth and death certificates until 1 January 1915, so there are no vital records to obtain for William to help determine when he was born or when he died. Moreover, prior to 1850, census records only listed the head of household. This prevents searching for William by name in the census at the time of his birth. There is a listing for "Thos Altman" in the 1830 and 1840 Horry County, South Carolina Federal Census. Horry County is adjacent to Marion County, so this is in close proximity to the Marion County lineage. As head of household in 1840, Thomas would be between 50-59, however, young William would not be represented as only free males past the age of 5 were counted.<sup>19</sup> In addition, a search for Elizabeth with her children also did not provide a solid link for William to these parents.

8. It is this researcher's opinion that while indirect evidence indicates that it is probable that Thomas is the father of William, there is no direct evidence at this time.

9. If you would like to continue your quest for William's parents, I would suggest research trips to both Marion County, SC and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, in Columbia, SC. A trip to Marion County will

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<sup>19</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Horry County, South Carolina, page 342, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 July 2013), citing National Archives microfilm publication M704, roll 512.

allow for a firsthand inspection of the Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery, Friendship Baptist Church records, the County records office, and a possible visit to local genealogical societies or libraries. In addition, the state of South Carolina is home to many Altman family lines. Given time, I feel a family name study would possibly provide the link you are looking for.

10. As for your other request regarding the family of "Monk" Altman, no records have been found at this time. Perhaps during our next meeting, we can talk further about this person and see if there are any other clues you may remember about him or his family.

11. I have enjoyed working with you on this project and I will be glad to continue it in any way you choose.

Best regards,

Stacey Brown