

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

It was my good fortune and pleasure to be a Civil War comrade of Andrew S. Payne, familiarly called "Big Andy".

He was a member of Columbus Riflemen, a Company organized in Columbus Miss., in 1837. That Company was mustered into Confederate States service at Corinth, Miss., May 27th, 1861 as Company K. 14th. Mississippi Regiment Inf., and was surrendered with command of General Joseph E. Johnston, C.S.A., at Old Durham, North Carolina to General W.T. Sherman U.S.A., on April 26, 1865.

A.S. Payne was color bearer of 14th Miss. regiment and was captured with the Company at Fort Donelson and imprisoned at Camp Donelson near Chicago. He cut the picture of President Jefferson Davis from the regimental flag and concealed it in lining of his coat. That treasured relic was brought back to Columbus after the close of the war and hung on the wall of Columbus Riflemen Armory. For its better preservation, it was sent to Mississippi State Department Archives and history where it still can be seen. "Big Andy" was wounded at Nashville, Tennessee. He made a true and valiant Confederate soldier among the 700,000 who fought against a 2,865,528 United States soldiers for four years of privation and suffering.

I am the last survivor of one hundred and sixty six men who served in the Confederate Army from Columbus and Lowndes County Mississippi.

"On fames eternal camping ground, their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead".

A.S. Payne was a member of Isham Harrison Camp, United Confederate Veterans, Columbus, Miss.

(Signed) C.L. Lincoln,
Co.K.14, Miss. Inf.

(Col. Lincoln is 92 years old; is still active and vigorous mentally and physically and is an outstanding example of a man who uses no liquor or tobacco.)