

Julius B. Murphy

*By Woody F. Murphy
Last updated Oct. 31, 2002*

Born 1825¹ in Alabama

Died April 15, 1865⁷ in Richmond, Virginia

Father: Wilson Murphy

Mother: Anne (?)

Married before 1846 to

Amanda E. Seale

Born – Btwn 1826¹ and 1829³ in Alabama

Died – Bef. 1909⁴ in Alabama

Children: 1. Susan Born 1846¹
2. Elizabeth Born 1848¹
3. Judy Born 1851³
4. James Born 1854³
5. Florence Born 1856³
6. Augustus Born 1858³
7. Anderson Born 1859³
8. Ella Born 1861³

Julius B. Murphy was 25 in the 1850 Federal Census which indicates he was born about 1825. Subsequent 1860 census confirms this date. He was born in Butler County, Alabama. He married Amanda E. Seale, daughter of Anderson Seale.

Two Land Patents were issued in the name of Julius Murphy. The first⁴ is for Julius S. B. Murphy, dated May 3, 1848, was for 40 acres (SW quarter of SE quarter of Section 28, Township 10N, Range 12E) which is near Butler Springs, AL. The second⁵ is for Julius B. Murphey, dated April 2, 1860, was for approximately 231 acres (the W half of the SW quarter of Section 6, Township 9N, Range 13E and the SE quarter of Section 1, Township 9N, Range 11E) at Shacklesville, AL.

The 1850 Census lists Julius, Amanda, Susan and Elizabeth in Township 7 of Butler County. This township is in the southwest corner of Butler County. A John Murphey (possibly Julius' grandfather) had a land patent⁶ for forty acres in Township 7, Range 12. Whether Julius was on that land is unknown. Listed near Julius is the family of Martin Murphy. There is no established relationship. They were probably not brothers since no mention of a Martin Murphy is found in the estate settlement for Wilson Murphy. No further reference to Martin Murphy has been found.

Julius enlisted in the CSA in June 15, 1864⁷. Records indicate that he was sworn in by Col. Murphey*. He enlisted in the 12th Alabama Infantry Regiment, Company E, which

was assigned to the Army of Virginia, and was obviously near Petersburg, VA during the last days of the Civil War. He was admitted to the Receiving and Wayside Hospital, Or General Hospital No. 9 on March 29, 1865 and was transferred to Howard's Grove Hospital in Richmond, VA on March 31, 1865. It has not been determined whether he was wounded or sick. He died at the Howard's Grove Hospital on April 15, 1865, six days after Lee surrendered. Although unconfirmed, he is probably buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Richmond where the majority of Confederate dead were buried.

Amanda E. Murphy never remarried. She filed several claims under the Relief for Widows of Confederate Soldiers acts⁸ from 1887 through 1899. The last three (1897, 1898 and 1899) list her address as Shackleville, AL. The 1897 claim lists her as having taxable property consisting of 27 acres of land. The 1898 claim lists taxable property as "nothing". The 1899 claim Schedule of Property lists: "no acres of land (valued at \$50.00); no horses or mules; one cattle of all kind (valued at \$10.00); no hogs, sheep or goats; no pistols, guns, etc.; no watches, clocks and jewelry; no household and kitchen furniture (with the annotation "Burned with house"); no bicycles and vehicles, no goods, wares and merchandise; and no mechanical and farming tools and implements.

She lived near Shackleville, AL until 1905 or 1909 when she moved to Excel, AL with her sons Anderson ("Doc" or "Dock") and Augustus ("Chuck") and Augustus' son-in-law and daughter, Frank and Minnie Vickery. She died in 1909 and is buried in Excel.

* No indication who this Col. Murphey was. Possibilities are:

- Col. Virgil Murphey of the 17th Alabama Infantry (organized by Thomas H. Hill, brother-in-law to Julius's brother Augustus). Records indicate that Col. Virgil Murphey was stationed in both Mobile (1862-1863) and Pollard (1864), Alabama and had previously sworn in a B. F. Murphy in Greenville (Feb 9, 1863). There is no evidence of relationship. Virgil Murphey was from Montgomery, AL.
- Wilson Murphy, Jr. (Julius' brother) of the 33rd Alabama Infantry. Highest rank documented was Captain.
- Wilson Murphy, Sr. Many counties and towns in the 19th Century had militia units. It is possible that Wilson Sr. was commander of one of the units and had title of Col.
- Another brother who was in the army.

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1. Federal Census 1850
 2. Federal Census 1860
 3. Federal Census 1870
 4. Bureau of Land Management, Document 36689, Accession/Serial Nr. AL1850__.398
 5. Bureau of Land Management, Document 47865, Accession/Serial Nr. AL2070__.468
 6. Bureau of Land Management, Document 34756, Accession/Serial Nr. AL1810__.439
 7. National Archives Microfilm Publications, Microfilm 311, "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama", Roll 213, Twelfth Infantry, Li – M; Washington, 1960.
 8. Applications for Relief by Widows of Confederate Soldiers