

# 'TEN CENT BILL' YOPP

DRUMMER, COMPANY H, 14<sup>TH</sup> GEORGIA INFANTRY, C.S.A.

In 2008, Private Bill Yopp was honored by the Governor of Georgia for his contributions to the State of Georgia. Yopp was born in Laurens County in the early 1840s on the plantation of Jeremiah Yopp. Jeremiah Yopp assigned Bill to his son, Thomas. Bill once said that he followed Thomas like "Mary's little lamb." The two instantly became friends. They fished, hunted and played together.

Thomas Yopp was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. of the "Blackshear Guards, Co. H, 14th Ga. Infantry. Bill enlisted in the army, not only as a servant to Thomas, but as the company drummer. When Lt. Yopp was injured at the Battle of SevenPines, Bill accompanied him home until his return to the war later in 1862. While in the Confederate army, Bill did many chores around the camp. For his work, Bill was often paid a small sum, which eventually led to his nickname of "Ten Cent Bill."

Bill served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Georgia in the Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. When Captain Yopp transferred to the C.S. Navy, Bill remained in the company until his surrender at Appomattox.



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After the war, Bill Yopp worked as a porter in hotels and dining cars, traveling across the country and Europe. Some fifty years after the end of the Civil War, Bill Yopp returned to Georgia to find his old friend and master. Bill Yopp engaged in a mission to raise money for his fellow Confederate veterans around the state. He lived with Capt. Yopp at the Confederate Soldiers Home and was eventually invited to become a member of the United Confederate Veterans. Yopp also worked in Georgia's state capital in his latter years.

Bill Yopp died on June 3, 1936. His body was buried along the side of his fellow Confederate soldiers in the Confederate Section of the Cemetery in Marietta. His marker symbolically lies at the front of a formation of graves, as he would have been while leading the company into the battle.

After the body of Amos Rucker was disinterred to be laid next to the body of his wife, Bill became the lone African-American soldier of the Confederate Army to lie in the Cemetery.

His gravestone provided by the State of Georgia reads:

**DRUMMER, BILL YOPP**  
**CO. H, 14<sup>TH</sup> GA. INF., C.S.A.**



Born into slavery, William "Ten Cent Bill" Yopp, was one of the unique soldiers of the Confederate States Army. Bill Yopp was more than just a Black Confederate soldier. Bill's life was not just that of a soldier, a porter, or a servant. His life was centered on the essential element of human life. His friendships transcended slavery, racism and politics. To Bill, friendship was paramount to any barriers set in his path of life.

FUNDING FOR THIS SIGN PROVIDED BY THE GEORGIA CIVIL WAR COMMISSION