

Bond, Battle (1820-1898)

Civil War Veteran

Battle Bond was born in 1820 in Virginia, apparently in that part which during the Civil War became West Virginia. The first record we have of him is in the 1850 census when he was living in the Petersville District in southwestern Frederick County, MD. From the names of his neighbors, it looks like he was living in the village of Berlin. He was married to Barbara E. Bond, who was 10 years younger than he, and they had two children: Virginia H., age 2, and George W., age 1. At the time, Battle made a living as a basket-maker.

In 1860, the family was still living in that area. He was now a laborer and, although he owned no real estate, his personal estate was valued at \$100. There were now three children at home: Albert (9), Julia (6), and Charles (4). Interestingly, neither Virginia nor George were listed with the family. I was able to locate a 13-year old Virginia Bond at the Catholic Female Academy in Frederick (aka Visitation Academy of Frederick, which at the time had 189 residential students). However, I was not able to locate George.

Involvement in the Civil War. At age 41, and with a small family at home, one might wonder why Battle Bond decided to join the Union Army. Perhaps it was the guaranteed paycheck that would help feed his family. At any rate, he went to Frederick and mustered into the newly formed Co. K of the 1st Regiment of the Maryland Potomac Home Brigade (PHB) on December 13, 1861. This was 8 months after the war broke out at Ft. Sumter, SC. He served until the end of the war, 3 ½ years later.

After some initial training at Camp Worman just north of Frederick during the winter of 1861-62, the PHB's initial assignment was to march to Winchester to guard the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Subsequently, they were marched to Harpers Ferry, and on May 27, 1862, they saw their first action in a skirmish with Mosby's Rangers at Loudoun Heights.

They were part of the forces defending Harpers Ferry when it was surrendered to Stonewall Jackson on Sept 15, 1862, and were marched off to Camp Parole in Annapolis for the winter. Had they not been taken prisoner and been placed on parole at that time, they would have marched to Antietam to participate in that slaughter just two days later. They spent the winter at Camp Parole until a prisoner exchange was arranged in the spring. They then returned to their original assignment, which was "for the protection of the canal and the property and persons of loyal citizens of the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the vicinity whilst in the service."

However, as the war progressed, they were called on to participate in some significant battles, most notably the Battle of Gettysburg (July 3-5, 1863), and the Battle of Monocacy (July 9, 1864). On April 8, 1865, members of the 1st PHB were transferred to the 13th Maryland Infantry Regiment (MIR). The following day, April 9, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, ending the war. The 13th MIR was disbanded on May 29, 1865, and Battle Bond, along with the others, mustered out of service at that time.

After the war, Battle returned home. Barbara gave birth to another child -- Edith M. -- in 1865. Barbara died sometime between 1865 and 1870.

The 1870 census shows the widowed Battle van Bond, now 50 years old and living in Berlin with Albert (19), Julia (16), Charles (15), and Edith (5). The census record indicated that he was working on the railroad as a repairer.

By 1880, Battle and two of his sons (Albert and Charles) had moved to Cumberland. Both of the sons were married and starting families of their own. Battle was a boarder with the Krimm (sp?) family and employed as a fireman. Albert was a tanner, and Charles was a boatman. All three of them lived in close proximity on North Mechanic Street. 15-year old Edith stayed behind in Berlin and was living with her sister Julia and her husband Frank Magaha, who was farming.

The 1890 census was destroyed, but City Directories for Cumberland for 1893 and 1895 listed Battle Bond (living at 37 Elm and 83 Haley, respectively) working as a watchman.

The announcement of his death on 9 Jan 1898 in the Brunswick Herald describes the last days of his life: *"Mr. Bond, a resident of Cumberland, and the father of ex-bailiff C.H. Bond, of this town, died at the residence of his son here on Sunday. He came here not long ago on a visit to his son, was taken sick and died. The deceased was about 70 years old and was at one time a resident of this place, when it was known as Berlin. He was a veteran of the civil war. The funeral was held on Tuesday at 10 o'clock. Services were held in the M.E. Church by Rev. A.W. Philhower, of the Church of God, after which interment was made in the old burying ground [the Old Berlin Cemetery]. The pall bearers were Jas. McBride, O.D. Hathaway, **L.S. House***, **Lean Barger***, Lawson House and Edward Dean, all comrades of the late war. C.H. Feete & Bro. had charge of the funeral arrangements."*

*Leonard S. House and Leander Barger, both Civil War veterans, are also buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery.