

**From Newport Herald, Aug 11 1900.**  
**HERO IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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Dulag, P.I. , May 25, 1900    (*maybe Lubang Island?*)

Mrs J.H. Gillespie, Hanceville, Alabama:

Dear Cousin: -- I have written you several letters since I have been here, but as yet have received no reply. I know you will answer me if you hear from me.

I have been here since Dec 20th 1899(?), spending four months on Negros Island and the balance of the time here. We are having some very unpleasant experiences. Are isolated and have been without rations for eight day at a time.

I have been in but two regular fights, one didn't amount to much, but the other was rather a fierce engagement. There is a strong-hold on top of a mountain some fifteen miles away, and Major Andrews attacked it with four companies. The fight began at 10 a.m. and continued until 6 p.m., when we were forced to retreat for the night. Roll call showed 17 killed and 28 wounded. I am on the wounded list. I did a very foolish thing. The mountain makes it impossible to see this fort until you are almost at it and then you are protected by the heavy timber. Having no artillery it was impossible to do the enemy much damage.

Realizing our helplessness, I agreed to crawl up and plant some dynamite under the wall and blow a hole in the breast works if the boys would protect me by a continuous fire over the top. I had gotten up and almost completed my work when I was discovered, and a man climbed up and shot me with a Mauser rifle at a distance of eight feet. Of course I did not touch off the bomb. The doctor says the nearness of the rifle saved my life, but it was some days before he thought me safe. I am better now, but have to sit up all the time. The shot passed thro' the bowels, and may prove serious yet. I hope you will write me a long letter, and send me a lot of papers and magazines. I will not wait for an answer, but will write again as soon as I have more strength and paper. I will have to stop. Be sure and write to

Yours affectionately,  
Huntley Simmons  
Co A 44th U.S. I. ?

A brief pathetic story of an Alabama boy, Huntly Simmons, son of H.C. Simmons, the "erratic genius of Clay county." A simple record of a brave soldier and son of a long line of brave soldiers.

His grandfather, Holman Freeman Simmons, was the grandson of Holman Freeman and nephew of Col Holman Freeman (*sic*) of Revolutionary fame. There has been no break in the chain-the entire line have been brave fighters for their county's honor. It remained for this young man in the far-off Philippines, unknown to the world, unchronicled by historian, to add luster to a record of honor.

I trust in some hearts at least will live on this story of Huntly Simmons, the son of an ex-Confederate, now sleeping on the hillside in Clay, who bravely and with cheerfulness met the fate so simply described. He is an honor to his state, already heaped with pride of statesman and soldier.

----- end of column and article in Newport Herald -----

*A Bowie comments, 19 Jan 2009:*

*Mrs J.H. Gillispie of Hanceville, Alabama is Mrs Julia Hamil Gillispie, daughter of Anna Jane Simmons and Edward Joseph Hamil and granddaughter of Holman Freeman Simmons and Eliza Hawkins Burns.*

*Huntley was grandson of Holman Freeman Simmons, who was grandson of Holman Freeman. See Rev. War, DAR list civil service in GA DAR PATRIOT INDEX, Part I, p. 1084. DAR monument erected on old family plot in Wilkes Co. GA*

*William Henry Huntley Simmons was born in Arkansas in 1875 according to 1880 Census of Morgan County Alabama. The birth year and states for his siblings on that census indicate his family was in Arkansas between 1871 and 1875. Also indicates they were in Alabama and Florida earlier, father Henry Clay Simmons served in CSA Florida units with brothers Holman Felix, Joseph Bibb, and maybe Fletcher.*

*The 1860 census places Henry Clay and first wife Jane beside his sister Mary Mallory and his brother Joseph Bibb Simmons near Bowen's Ridge, Cashe township, Jackson County Arkansas.*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Philippine–American War (1899 - 1902/1913) was an armed military conflict between the United States and the Philippines, which arose from the First Philippine Republic struggle against U.S. annexation of the Islands. This conflict is also known as the Philippine Insurrection. Over one million Filipino civilians perished in this war.

The war officially ended on July 4, 1902. However, remnants of the Philippine Army, and other resistance groups continued hostilities against American rule until 1913.

*also known as the '**Philippine Insurrection***

From "List of Officers of the Army of the US from 1799 to 1900 / Powell.

**43rd US Volunteer Infantry**

**Colonel**

Murray, Arthur (Regular), Col 43rd US Inf 17 Aug 1899

**Lieutenant Colonel**

Wilder, Wilber E (Regular), Lieut. Col, 43rd, US inf, 17 Aug, 1899

**Majors**

Allen, Henry T. (Regular) Maj. 43rd US Inf, 17 Aug 1899

**Andrews, Lincoln C (Regular) Maj. 43rd US Inf, 17 Aug 1899**

Gilmore, John C, Jr (Regular) Maj. 43rd US Inf, 17 Aug 1899

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**44 US Volunteer Infantry**

**Colonel**

McClelland Edward, J (Regular), Col 44th US Inf 17 Aug 1890

**Lieutenant Colonel**

Scott, William S (Regular), Maj A.A.G 17 Sept 1898, Discharged 12 May 1899

Lieut. Col, 44th, US inf, 17 Aug, 1899

**Majors**

Hale, Harry C (Regular) Maj. 44th US Inf, 17 Aug 1899

Walcutt, Charles C (Regular) Maj. 44 US Inf, 17 Aug 1899

McCoy, Henry B/ ---- Cp; 1st Colo Inf. 1 <au 1898. Cp; 27 Sept, 1898, mustered out 8 Sept 1899, Maj 44th US Inf 17 Aug 1899.

**LOCAL NEWS**  
The first of the season's crop of apples was marketed yesterday by the local growers. The fruit is of fine quality and is being sold at a fair price. The weather is very favorable for the fruit and it is expected that the crop will be a large one.  
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