

## The Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson Heritage Society

(a component of the Rocky Springs School House Historical Interpretation and Research Center of Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, Inc.)

*“I want posterity to consider us as sound-headed as well as warmhearted and I want them to understand that our course in leaving our native State was dictated by reason as well as by enthusiasm—that we were perfectly right in doing as we did, and were actuated by the highest motives of intelligent patriotism...When Great Britain acknowledged the independence of the States she recognized each by name as an independent and sovereign State. Maryland was as sovereign as England or France. These sovereign States formed a government to protect their liberty and independence, but they never gave up the right to change their form of government at their pleasure...The Southern States promptly resolved that their rights, interests and liberty required that they should change the form of government under which they and their ancestors had been living...and form a new government satisfactory to themselves...Whether it be called secession, revolution or rebellion, it is the fundamental principle of American liberty, declared in the Declaration, announced by all the courts, proclaimed in every bill of rights of every State, North or South, old and new, that all government rests upon the consent of the governed...When Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to suppress insurrection in the South, that call compacted the South into a stone wall. It lighted the beacon fires on every hill. It made every valley echo with the tramp of armed men marching to the defense of their homes. In a night the issue was changed from union or disunion to subjugation or resistance...When, therefore, in 1861 the issue was presented to the Marylander whether he should stand by, in base ease and inglorious safety, while his blood and kin in Virginia were dying like men, resisting the invasion of their homes and the subjugation of their liberties, he hesitated not a moment, and...flew to the assistance of Virginia...In the Maryland Line there were not 20 men who had any property interest in slavery. There was not a man who sought promotion or advantage of fortune. They went to stand by their friends in trouble...”*

**-General Bradley T. Johnson (1894)**

The purpose of the **Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson Heritage Society** is to:

- (1) perform research in matters pertaining to the private and public life of Frederick, Maryland native Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson, C.S.A., and share the results of this research with the public through educational programming, exhibits and publications
- (2) foster truth in all matters that touch upon his legacy
- (3) preserve the history and legacy of the units he recruited and commanded so that future generations will understand the divided loyalties that existed in Maryland during the American Civil War
- (4) promote and perform accurate living history presentations and battle reenactments using closely-authentic weapons, uniforms, equipment and tools, and depicting language, customs and ideals that would have prevailed in the units General Johnson recruited and commanded during the Civil War, in order to educate the public on these intriguing aspects of American History

**For more information or to participate in the Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson Heritage Society, contact: Mike Drury at (240) 440-0361 or via email at [mdrury7091@yahoo.com](mailto:mdrury7091@yahoo.com).**

## **Who Was Bradley Tyler Johnson?**

Frederick native Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson (1829-1903) was one of the most prominent Marylanders to join the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War, by both reason of family lineage and personal qualities and achievements. He was a grand nephew of Thomas Johnson (1732-1819), who was the first governor of Maryland, a delegate to the Continental Congress, brigadier general in the Maryland militia, and Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Thomas Johnson practiced law in Frederick, Maryland beginning in 1760, and after leaving public service, he retired to Rose Hill Manor (now known as Rose Hill Manor Park & Children's Museum), his daughter's home in Frederick, where he died in 1819. Bradley Johnson's grandfather, Colonel Baker Johnson (1747-1811), was also a prominent lawyer and served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Frederick County Militia during the Revolutionary War. Baker Johnson, along with his brothers Governor Thomas Johnson and Roger and James Johnson, built Catoctin Iron Furnace in Thurmont, Maryland (the furnace is now part of Cunningham Falls State Park), which they jointly owned from 1774 to 1793. It was here the Johnson brothers made 10-inch cannonballs for the Continental Army that were used during the siege of Yorktown, the final battle of the American Revolution that led to the British surrender.

Bradley Tyler Johnson (1829-1903) was born in Frederick, Maryland on September 29, 1829. He was the son of Charles Worthington Johnson, M.D. (1805-1833)(son of Baker Johnson), a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and Eleanor Murdock (Tyler) Johnson. Bradley Johnson had one sibling, a sister, Harriet Johnson. In 1849, Bradley Johnson graduated from the College of New Jersey (known today as Princeton University). He then matriculated at Harvard Law School, receiving his law degree in 1851. Shortly thereafter, Bradley Johnson was admitted to the Maryland bar, and in June, 1851, at the age of 21, he married 17 year old Jane Claudia Saunders of North Carolina (daughter of The Honorable Romulus Mitchell Saunders, North Carolina Attorney General, Congressman and Diplomat to Spain, and a granddaughter of William Johnson, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court). Bradley and Jane Johnson's son, Bradley Saunders Johnson (1856-1917), was born in 1856.

In November 1851, Bradley Johnson was elected Frederick County State's Attorney and practiced law in Frederick, Maryland for the next 10 years (1851-1861). A leader in the State Democratic party, Bradley Johnson fervently worked for self-determination in Maryland. He was the Democratic candidate for Comptroller of the state in 1857, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee in 1859-1860, Delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Charleston and Baltimore in 1860, and withdrew with a majority of the Maryland delegation from the convention and united in the nomination of John C. Breckinridge.

When the Civil War began, Johnson's sense of honor and devotion to his state led him to organize a militia company of almost 70 men in his hometown of Frederick, Maryland. On May 8, 1861, Johnson left Frederick in command of the first organized company of Marylander's that went south to join the Confederacy. He took an active role in forming the First Maryland Infantry, C.S.A., in which he was initially appointed captain (May 1861), became major (June 1861) and was subsequently promoted to lieutenant colonel (July 1861) and colonel of cavalry (December 1862). He declined a lieutenant colonel's commission in a Virginia regiment because of his belief that his strongest obligation was to his home state of Maryland. By mid May 1861, about 500 Marylanders had begun to assemble at Harper's Ferry, Virginia under Johnson's command, forming 8 companies of Maryland infantry. They were officially mustered into the service of the Confederate States on 21-22 May 1861. Johnson preferred not to join the newly forming Virginia regiments, arguing that Marylanders should fight under their own flag.

Anxious to serve the South and to ensure that Maryland would be represented by its own sons in their own unit rather than have them absorbed into other units, Johnson faced a serious crisis. Because Maryland had remained a Union state, Johnson's men lacked state funding, and therefore lacked uniforms, arms, ammunition and equipment. Upon learning of this predicament, Johnson's wife, Jane, requested she be permitted to go to Raleigh, North Carolina (her home state) to seek assistance for her husband's Maryland troops. She felt her father's influence and her own acquaintance with leaders of the state might be effective. Colonel Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, the unit's senior commander, approved Mrs. Johnson's plan, provided transportation, and assigned a captain and a lieutenant to escort Mrs. Johnson to North Carolina. On May 24, 1861, the trio departed the camp at Harper's Ferry, Virginia for Raleigh, North Carolina.

The morning after her arrival in Raleigh, Mrs. Johnson appeared before Governor John W. Ellis and the Council of State, expressed the necessities of the Maryland troops and appealed to them for assistance. Governor Ellis immediately instructed one of his aides to provide Mrs. Johnson with 500 Mississippi rifles, 10,000 cartridges, 3,500 caps, and other "necessary equipments." Mrs. Johnson then saw the equipment loaded in a boxcar, boarded the car, took a seat atop the wooden box containing the rifles, and began the return trip. Word of her deed spread, and she was greeted by an "ovation" at every stop. Moreover, the governor of Virginia gave her a large quantity of camp kettles, hatchets, axes, blankets and other equipment, and with money handed to her along the way she was able to order 41 tents in Richmond. Arriving back at her husband's camp on 3 June 1861, she delivered the items to him after an absence of only 10 days.

The question then arose as to how to secure uniforms and necessary clothing for the men. Once again, Mrs. Johnson used her substantial influence and personal fortitude to solve the problem. She returned to Richmond for clothes and, on June 29, 1861, she returned to Harper's Ferry with enough uniforms and underclothes to clad 500 men. The positive effect the uniforms Mrs. Johnson procured had on the soldiers of the First Maryland, is summed up in the book *The Maryland Line in the Confederate Army 1861-1865*, by W. W. Goldsborough, published in 1900, which reads:

*"...the men were clad in neatly fitting gray uniforms. And what a change there was! The boys no longer blushed through the bronze on their cheeks if any of the fair ladies of Winchester chanced to be in camp, and behind them when the commanders of companies gave the order, "Parade rest!" they stood erect, a cubit was added to their stature, and they looked boldly into soft and dark eyes that beamed on boys in gray."*

In a tribute to his wife concerning her achievement in arming, clothing and equipping the men of the First Maryland, Bradley Johnson wrote, *"She...was amply qualified by graces of person and mind and the force of her will, to accomplish an enterprise which required the daring gallantry of a man with the persuasive power and perseverance of a woman."*

On July 21, 1861, Bradley Johnson and the First Maryland fought at First Manassas, and beginning in March 1862, participated in General "Stonewall" Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. However, on May 17, 1862, the initial 12-month term of duty of Company C, First Maryland Regiment, expired, and the men began to clamor for their immediate discharge. By this time the regimental commander, George H. Steuart, had been promoted to brigadier general, and assigned with the task of forming the Maryland Line, and Bradley Johnson had been promoted to colonel and succeeded to command of the regiment. Johnson reluctantly agreed with the men, but he could not disband the entire regiment in mid-campaign, and discontent began to spread. By May 22, 1862, on the eve of the Battle of Front Royal, discontent became open mutiny. Steuart and Johnson argued with the men to no avail, though news of

the rebellion was kept from General Jackson. When given orders to engage the enemy, Johnson addressed his soldiers:

*"You have heard the order, and I must confess are in a pretty condition to obey it. I will have to return it with the endorsement upon the back that 'the First Maryland refuses to meet the enemy', despite being given orders by General Jackson. Before this day I was proud to call myself a Marylander, but now, God knows, I would rather be known as anything else. Shame on you to bring this stigma upon the fair name of your native state - to cause the finger of scorn to be pointed at those who confided to your keeping their most sacred trust - their honor and that of the glorious Old State. Marylanders you call yourselves - profane not that hallowed name again, for it is not yours. What Marylander ever before threw down his arms and deserted his colors in the presence of the enemy, and those arms, and those colors too, placed in your hands by a woman? Never before has one single blot defaced her honored history. Could it be possible to conceive a crime more atrocious, an outrage more damnable? Go home and publish to the world your infamy. Boast of it when you meet your fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters and sweethearts. Tell them it was you who, when brought face to face with the enemy, proved yourselves recreants, and acknowledged yourselves to be cowards. Tell them this, and see if you are not spurned from their presence like some loathsome leper, and despised, detested, nay abhorred, by those whose confidence you have so shamefully betrayed; you will wander over the face of the earth with the brand of 'coward', 'traitor', indelibly imprinted on your foreheads, and in the end sink into a dishonored grave, unwept for, uncared for, leaving behind as a heritage to your posterity the scorn and contempt of every honest man and virtuous woman in the land."* Johnson's speech seems to have worked where threats had failed, and the Marylanders rallied to the regimental colors, seizing their weapons and crying *"lead us to the enemy and we will prove to you that we are not cowards."*

The Battle of Front Royal is notable in that the First Maryland, C.S.A., fought its fellow Marylanders, the First Maryland, U.S.A., making it the only time in United States military history that two regiments of the same numerical designation and from the same state have engaged each other in battle. After hours of desperate fighting the Southerners emerged victorious which resulted in the capture of the Union commander, Colonel John R. Kenly, and most of his men. Immediately after the battle Colonel Johnson found Colonel Kenly lying on the field severely wounded. According to Colonel Kenly, Colonel Johnson offered him *"every attention possible with a chivalrous manner"* that Kenly never forgot. Moreover, according to J. J. Goldsborough, a member of the First Maryland C.S.A. (who wrote the history of the Maryland Line in the Confederate Army), when the prisoners were taken, *"nearly all recognized old friends and acquaintances, whom they greeted cordially, and divided with them the rations which had just changed hands."*

Just two days later, on May 25, 1862, Johnson and the First Maryland C.S.A. fought again at the First Battle of Winchester. After the Confederate victory, Johnson, who was described by J. J. Goldsborough as *"one of the handsomest men in the First Maryland"* was the recipient of some unwelcome female attention, and Goldsborough wrote the following account of the incident:

*"...having dismounted from his horse in an unguarded moment, [he] was espied and singled out by an old lady of Amazonian proportions, just from the wash tub, who, wiping her hands and mouth on her apron as she approached, seized him around the neck with the hug of a bruin, and bestowed upon him half a dozen kisses that were heard by nearly every man in the command, and when at length she relaxed her hold the Colonel looked as if he had just come out a vapor bath."*

At Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on June 6, 1862, after having his horse shot under him, and on the death of General Turner Ashby, Colonel Johnson and his men attacked and routed the Pennsylvania Bucktail

Rifles and captured its commander. In 1882, General Johnson recounted:

*“We afterwards heard that of over 200 Bucktails who went into that fight only fifty came out. The fight, short as it was, had cost us dearly. We lost Captain Michael S. Robertson, Company I, killed instantly. At the same time fell Lieutenant Nicholas Snowden, Company D, from Prince George of that well known family. At the time of the Baltimore outbreak he commanded a cavalry company, which he immediately put under arms until, like so many others, he found Hicks had betrayed the State, and he came to Virginia. No braver, or more gallant gentlemen than these have died for Southern Independence. With them fell six or eight more dead, Color-Sergeant Doyle was shot down, Color-Corporal Taylor caught the colors, but soon went down, the next Corporal to him caught them, but instantly falling, Corporal Shanks, Company H, seized them, lifting them arms length above his head, carried them safely through the fight.”*

Major General Richard S. Ewell, in his official report of the Valley Campaign, said:

*“The history of the Maryland regiment, gallantly commanded by Colonel Bradley T. Johnson...would be the history of every action from Front Royal to Cross Keys. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, near Harrisonburg, the Fifty-eighth Virginia Regiment was engaged with the Pennsylvania Bucktails, the fighting being close and bloody. Colonel Johnson came up with his regiment in the hottest period, and by a dashing charge in flank drove the enemy off with heavy loss, capturing Lieutenant Colonel Kane, commanding. In commemoration of this gallent conduct I ordered one of the captured “Bucktails” to be appended as a trophy to their flag...Four color-bearers were shot down in succession, but each time the colors were caught before reaching the ground, and were finally borne by Corporal Daniel Shanks to the close of the action.”*

Therefore, in the Battle of Cross Keys, June 8, 1862, by order of General Ewell, Johnson carried one of the captured bucktails, the insignia of their beaten foe, affixed to his colors. Next, the First Maryland participated in the Seven Days Battles from June 25 to July 1, 1862. However, the First Maryland Regiment, C.S.A., had entered the field in the spring of 1862 with 720 men, but by early August 1862, its numbers had been reduced to about 150 men due to battle losses and illness. As such, the Confederate Secretary of War issued an order to disband what was left of the regiment.

Upon receipt of the order on August 17, 1862, Colonel Bradley T. Johnson mustered the remaining men of the First Maryland out of service. It was reported the event occurred *“amid a scene of lamination that perhaps had never before been witnessed under the circumstanaces, and strong men, veterans who had stood up and faced death on many a bloody field, wept like children.”* The Maryland flag, which had been carried by the First Maryland as the regimental colors in all its battles, was retired, but not before it had been *“fondly embrased by the brave men who had so often followed it to victory.”* By a unanimous vote of the battalion, the color-bearer, with a committee, was appointed to take the flag to Charlottesville and *“present it to the noble woman who had so faithfully stood by them in their hour of need—Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson.”*

Amid tears and sobs, the appointees presented their flag to Mrs. Johnson with the following note:

*“To Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson,*

*Dear Madam, — Upon the occasion of the disbandment of the 1st Md. Reg't on the 17th of Aug., we the undersigned, members of the above named Reg't, do unanimously agree and resolve to present to you, as one true and truly worthy to receive it. Our Flag,*

*which has been gallantly and victoriously borne over many a bloody and hard fought field, and under whose sacred folds Maryland's sons have fought and bled in a holy cause.*

*Our attachment for our Flag is undying, and now that circumstances have rendered it necessary that our organization should no longer exist, we place in your hands as a testimonial of our regard and esteem, our little Flag, which is dear to us all."*

Mrs. Johnson responded:

*"Gentlemen, — This emblem of your courage and State pride, I have received. The trust that you have reposed in me shall be sacredly guarded, and only to the same organization, with officers and men, will I ever yield it.*

*I take this means of assuring you all that, as I have been with you in the trials you have undergone in the South, so will I ever be, and no member of the First Maryland Regiment will ever want a friend while I live."*

**(NOTE: This flag, decorated with the captured Bucktail, and honored by a special order by General Ewell, was laid on Jane Claudia Johnson's bier when she was carried to her grave by "her old soldiers" in January 1900, and she left the flag to her son and grandson as a treasured heirloom in her will. In 1903, the flag was used to drape the coffin of her husband, Brigadier General Bradley T. Johnson.)**

After being reassigned to General "Stonewall" Jackson's division, on August 28, 1862, Bradley Johnson commanded the 2d brigade of Jackson's division and in the raid around Pope's army captured a messenger with important dispatches, that disclosed to Jackson the tactics of the Federal commanders. Johnson next served on a military court in Richmond. When the Confederate Army invaded Maryland in September 1862, Colonel Johnson issued a proclamation in the City of Frederick, inviting the young men of Maryland to join the Confederate Army. In July 1863, he fought at the Battle of Gettysburg and in November 1863, Johnson assumed command of the Maryland Line. In June of 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general to replace General William E. "Grumble" Jones, who was killed in the Battle of Piedmont. His services in defeating Dahlgren on his raid toward Richmond were recognized in a general order, and General Wade Hampton presented Johnson with a saber.

In General Jubal Early's raid on Washington in July 1864, General Johnson commanded the advanced guard in the invasion, and Johnson's forces clashed with those of General Lew Wallace just west of the City of Frederick, in the Rocky Springs vicinity, on both 7 and 8 July 1864, as a prelude to the Battle of Monocacy. A description of the fighting on 7 and 8 July 1864, to include the cavalry skirmish that occurred on July 8, 1864, between members of Johnson's 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry and the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry, near Rocky Springs School House, is contained in the book, *Early's Great Raid He Advances Through Maryland Battle of Monocacy*, published in 1898, and written by E. Y. Goldsborough, First Lieutenant and Aid-de-Camp on General E. B. Tyler's Staff. The skirmishing in this area was so intense during the two days leading up to the Battle of Monocacy, it caused General Wallace to boast to his superiors "Think I had the best little battle of the war." Then, on July 9, 1864, General Johnson led an aborted attempt to liberate Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland.

On July 20, 1864, Lieutenant General Jubal Early ordered General John McCausland and General Bradley Johnson to burn Chambersburg, Pennsylvania if the town did not pay the ransom he demanded

to the Confederacy. As such, General McCausland and General Johnson led the raid on Chambersburg to carry out Early's orders to obtain the ransom or burn the town. However, Johnson strongly opposed the wanton destruction of Chambersburg, which is documented in several reports of the incident.

In the book *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Additions and Corrections to Series I—Volume XXXVII*, published under the direction of the Secretary of War in 1902, there is a report submitted on August 9, 1864, by Will S. Kochersperger, Sergeant, Company L, Twentieth Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry, Indorsement Clerk at Headquarters Department of the Susquehanna, to Major John S. Schultze, Assistant Adjutant-General, that reads:

*“I have the honor to report relating to the late invasion by the rebels in Chambersburg, Pa., on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1864. Being on detached duty at headquarters of the department at that place, and unavoidably detained there, I was present on both the entree and departure of their forces...and was both an eye-witness and observator of the following, which came under my immediate observation:*

*The rebels entered the town...under the command of Generals McCausland and Bradley T. Johnson...On arriving into town, General McCausland informed me personally that if I had any self-interest at stake it would be well for me to listen to the order he would read and get the municipal authorities together to hold a meeting and comply with their desires. The order itself was handed to me, which I read myself. The purport of which was as follows:*

*“...it is ordered that the citizens of Chambersburg pay to the Confederate States by General McCausland, the sum of \$100,000 in gold:...or \$500,000 in greenbacks or national currency was required to ransom the town, otherwise the town would be laid to ashes within three hours.”*

*The order was signed by General Early. After reading the order I started to find the town council. Meeting one of them I informed him of the facts, when he told me that the citizens would not pay...I returned and met General Bradley T. Johnson on the portico of the Franklin Hotel. The rebels were by this time dismounted and breaking in the doors of stores and houses, and had already commenced plundering...I was in company with both Generals McCausland and Johnson...General McCausland was appealed to by Johnson to relent or at least give the citizens more time, but he was determined. At 9 o'clock McCausland ordered the town burnt...When they left nearly two thirds of their party were in a state of intoxication, hardly capable of sitting on their horses.”*

General Johnson considered the actions of General McCausland and his officers and men at Chambersburg so personally repulsive that he was compelled to officially report the incident to the Adjutant General. Johnson wrote:

*“It is due to myself and the cause which I serve to remark on the outrageous conduct of the troops on this expedition. I informed General McCausland during the expedition that I should perform this duty. Every crime in the catalogue of infamy has been committed, except murder and rape. Highway robbery of watches and pocketbooks was of ordinary occurrence; the taking of breastpins, finger-rings and ear-rings frequently happened. Pillage and sack of private dwellings took place hourly. At Chambersburg, while the town was in flames, a quartermaster, aided and directed by a field-officer, exacted ransom of individuals for their houses, holding the torch in terror over the house until it was paid. These ransoms were from \$750.00 to \$150.00, according to the size of the habitation. Thus the grand spectacle of a national retaliation was reduced to a miserable huckstering for greenbacks. After the order was given to burn the town of Chambersburg, and before, drunken soldiers paraded the streets in every possible disguise and paraphernalia, pillaging and plundering and drunk. A soldier packed up a woman's and child's clothing, which he had stolen, in the presence of the highest officials, unrebuked. I tried and was seconded by almost every officer of my command, but in vain, to preserve the discipline*

*of this brigade, but it was impossible; not only the license afforded was too great, but actual example gave them excuse and justification.”*

The book *Confederate Military History, Vol. II.*, published by the Confederate Publishing Company in 1899, has the following entry regarding General Bradley T. Johnson and the burning of Chambersburg:

*“In July 1864 he was associated with General McCausland in command of the expedition to Chambersburg, Pa., and as he occupied the place with his brigade it fell his lot to execute the orders of General Early to burn the town. Justifiable as it was, as a stern and righteous retribution for the outrages in the valley, the work was no less repugnant to him and to the large majority of his command. He announced that no plundering would be permitted; nothing was to be appropriated but boots, shoes and army stores. Before the work of destruction had ceased many of his men were seen to unite with the residents in efforts to suppress the flames or rescue property. At Hancock his indignant protest prevented a similar visitation upon a community...”*

The accuracy of the account of the incident as published in the 1899 book *Confederate Military History, Vol. II.*, is supported in the book *The Great Invasion of 1863; or General Lee in Pennsylvania*, by Jacob Hoke, published in Dayton Ohio in 1887. In the chapter entitled, “*The Burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania*” Hoke wrote:

*“On Thursday, July 28, General Early directed General McCausland to take his own brigade of mounted infantry and the cavalry brigade of General Bradley T. Johnson...and proceed to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and after capturing it, levy a tribute upon it of one hundred thousand dollars in gold or five hundred thousand in United States currency, and in default of the payment of either to burn the town...as soon as General McCausland saw that the money demanded would not be furnished he gave the order to commence the work of destruction...Many of the Confederate soldiers entered into this work with evident delight, and to the entreaties and tears of the aged, the infirm, or women and children, they turned a deaf ear. Others, to their credit be it said, entirely disapproved of the work, and only entered upon it because compelled to do so. In some instances, in response to the cries and entreaties of the afflicted inmates of houses entered, the unwilling soldiers would say: “I must obey my orders and fire your house”...In some cases, after fire had been kindled, others would come in and assist in extinguishing it. Some sections of the town were entirely saved because the officers sent there refused to execute their barbarous orders, and in a few cases officers and soldiers worked with citizens at the fire engine to extinguish the flames...The infirm had to be assisted to places of safety; the sick removed; and corpses temporarily buried in gardens. In several instances Confederate soldiers assisted in these humane acts.”*

After Johnson’s brigade was routed at Moorefield, West Virginia, in August 1864, he and McCausland disputed responsibility for the disaster. Johnson requested a court of inquiry, but none was ever convened. Johnson’s brigade then participated in the 1864 Shenandoah Valley campaign, and in November 1864, he was sent to command a prison at Salisbury, North Carolina, where he served until the close of the war.

When the Union prisoners were starving, General Johnson took heroic measures to feed them by stopping a train bound for the Army of Northern Virginia, and taking from it the provisions with which it was freighted, and used them to feed the prisoners. At the same time, he asked to be allowed to carry the prisoners to Goldsboro and release them on parole, and urged upon Governor Vance, of North Carolina, the propriety of furnishing them with blankets and clothes from the depots of the state. The 1899 book *Confederate Military History, Vol. II.*, has the following entry regarding General Bradley T. Johnson's actions while in command of the Prison at Salisbury, North Carolina:

*“When the struggle came to an end, those connected with the prison posts were made the subjects of investigations by military courts. But the archives at Raleigh and Richmond, and the voluntary*

*testimony of those he had guarded, were so eloquent of the humanity of General Johnson that he was promptly relieved of persecution.”*

The book *Old Kemp: The Eastern Shore of Maryland*, published in 1876, lists General Bradley T. Johnson's record of military engagements as follows:

*“General Johnson was in active and arduous service all through the whole war. In 1861 he was in the battles of Manassas, Munson's Hill and Mason's Hill. In 1862 he participated in the engagements of Rappahannock Station,--Front Royal,--Winchester,--Harper's Ferry,--Harrisonburg,--Cross Keys,--Port Republic, in Jackson's Valley Campaigns,--at Coal Harbour,--Malvern Hill,--Westover,--2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas,--Chantilly,--Warrenton Springs, and Grovetown. In 1863, he was engaged at Gettysburg,--Martinsburg,--Hainsville,--Chester Gap,--Culpepper,--Brandy Station and Centreville,--and in 1864, at Pollard's Farm,--Trevillian's Section,--Frederick,--Beltsville,--Winchester,--was with General McCausland in the Chambersburg raid,--at Winchester 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.,--at Fisher's Hill 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.--at Cedar Creek 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.,--and at Woodstock 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1864.*

*In Early's raid into Maryland, and around Washington, General Bradley T. Johnson commanded the advance guard, in the invasion, and the rear guard, on the retreat.*

*From the 3d of July to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1864, he fought everyday, with a few exceptions of occasional rest, and continued in active service until the surrender at Appomattox Court House, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1865.”*

On May 11, 1866, General Bradley T. Johnson was granted a full presidential pardon from President Andrew Johnson for taking part in the rebellion against the Government of the United States. General Johnson and his wife then took up residence in Richmond, Virginia, where he resumed the practice of law. In 1872, he was a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Baltimore. In 1875, he published *"Reports of Chase's Decisions on the 4th Circuit,"* and in that same year was elected to the Virginia Senate, where he served with distinction. In 1877, Johnson made a report from the Committee on Finance on the public debt of Virginia, and in 1879, as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, he prepared the report on the question of the Federal judicial jurisdiction in its relation to the jurisdiction of the state courts.

Bradley Johnson's heart, however, still yearned for his native State of Maryland. Therefore, in 1879, General Johnson and his wife returned to Maryland and made their residence in Baltimore, where he continued to actively practice law until 1890. In 1883, Johnson wrote *The Foundation of Maryland and the Maryland Act Concerning Religion*. In 1884, Johnson became President of the Electoral College of Maryland. In 1891, he wrote *Memoirs of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston*. In 1894, he wrote *General Washington* in the *"Great Commanders"* series. In 1896, just before the Spanish American War, Johnson traveled to Cuba as a war correspondent for a New York newspaper and wrote a series of articles about the pending conflict. In 1899, Johnson wrote *The Confederate History of Maryland* and the article: *Stonewall Jackson's Intentions at Harper's Ferry* in *"Battles and Leaders of the Civil War."*

Highly regarded by all who knew him, and renowned for his courage and integrity, he worked tirelessly for the perpetuation of the record of Maryland in the Army of the Confederacy and for the relief of needy and disabled Confederate veterans. General Johnson wrote and spoke frequently on the Civil War, demonstrating his eloquence, humor and passion for the South. He served as long time President of the Confederate Army and Navy Society of Maryland and the Association of the Maryland Line, both of which he helped to establish. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Home for Confederate Veterans in Pikesville, Maryland.

On December 31, 1899, Bradley Johnson's beloved wife, Jane, died in the 48<sup>th</sup> year of their marriage, and was buried in Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore. Shortly thereafter, General Johnson retired to

his country home in Virginia nearer to his son, where he died on October 5, 1903, at the age of 74. General Johnson's funeral was held at Christ Episcopal Church in Baltimore. A friend of General Johnson's who attended his funeral described it as follows:

*“The funeral was most impressive. The coffin was covered in roses, but under them was a shot-ridden banner of the old First Maryland Regiment that he had so often led in battle. Outside the band played The Dead March from Saul, while the musical bells of the church tolled their knell for the old soldier, as his coffin was carried up the isle, proceeded by the clergy in their robes, followed by his family, including a grandson in the uniform of a cadet in the United States Navy, and limping along behind, some of them in gray, many of the survivors of his own, and other Confederate commands, and the most impressive of all a forever-furled conquered banner of the “Lost Cause” born by an old standard bearer. When the organist sounded the chords, the choir voiced forth the grand old hymn which I am told was ever a favorite in the Confederate Army, “The Son of God Goes Forth to War.” When the old soldiers of both of the armies present, held themselves erect with eyes that flashed something of the old fire, as the light fell through the stained glass windows upon the solemn faces of those assembled, one recalled Montgomery's classical hymn:*

*“Here in the body pent,  
Absent from thee I roam,  
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent,  
A day's march nearer home.”*

Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson, C.S.A., was laid to rest in Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland, near his beloved wife, Jane.

**\*The Brigadier General Bradley Tyler Johnson Heritage Society is a component of the Rocky Springs School House Historical Interpretation and Research Center of Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, Inc. (HRSC). It is headquartered at 7817 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702. Its main number and web address are (240) 439-4235 and [www.historicrockyspringschapelschoolhouse.org](http://www.historicrockyspringschapelschoolhouse.org)**