

**George Standiford**  
**Marshall County Man Arrested As Confederate Sympathizer**  
**Died While a POW**

**By Linda Cunningham Fluharty**

At first glance, in 2012, it seemed likely that Marshall County native, George Standiford, was the man of that name who was captured and arrested as a Confederate Sympathizer in 1862 at Knox County, Missouri. According to the records of the Provost Marshal, Citizen George H. Standiford was in Knox County, Missouri when he was arrested "upon the charge of having given aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States..." On June 16, 1862, in Missouri, George signed an oath that he would pay a \$1000 fine, not leave Knox County, and would report to U. S. authorities any hostile movement, etc. He swore to support, protect, and defend the U. S. Constitution and was then paroled. An investigation ensued regarding his residency in Missouri. The record is incomplete, but he was apparently ordered to be arrested again after it was concluded that no records were found to indicate he had ever lived in Knox County. Nothing is stated about a subsequent arrest.

Now, in 2019, records prove that George Standiford of Marshall County was NOT the George H. Standiford arrested in Missouri. Many researchers have settled on the latter being the man from Marshall County, but evidence simply does not support it. A careful study reveals that the dates in the records are in conflict for the two men, and the George Standiford from Marshall County is not referred to as George H.

On May 31, 1862, in Marshall County, (West) Virginia, George Standiford, the son of John Standiford and Rachel Bane, was captured and imprisoned at the Atheneum in Wheeling for "alleged disloyalty." On June 11, 1862, numerous neighbors and friends of the Standiford family signed a petition asking for his release. It was not known if or when the petitions were presented to authorities but on June 25, George was sent to the Union-operated camp for Confederate prisoners at Camp Chase, Ohio, near Columbus.

On August 2, 1862, Major Joseph Darr, Jr. wrote to Colonel William Hoffman, saying he was enclosing "petitions & evidence in favor of George Standiford, Citizen Prisoner at Camp Chase, Ohio, and recommends his release on taking the Oath of Allegiance, giving bonds, and reporting within 15 days after release."

On August 29, 1862, Major Darr received a letter from Colonel Allison with the news that George Standiford had died at Camp Chase on August 11, 1862, cause not stated.

George was initially buried at East Graveyard near Camp Chase in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. Most of the graves were moved to a Confederate Cemetery in 1882 and the whereabouts of George's grave is stated as "unknown" on some cemetery sites. However, he is buried at Standiford Cemetery, Marshall County, West Virginia.

Specifically, George had been arrested for "trying to run a Union man off his field," based on Kenneth W. Noe's essay, "*Who Were the Bushwackers? Age, Class, Kin, and Western Virginia's Confederate Guerrillas, 1861-1862*", Civil War History, Vol. 49, No. 1, March, 2003.

According to affidavits in his file, George had voted against the Ordinance of Secession, but might have spoken privately against the Union, despite the many Union supporters in his family. His arrest record has not been located and the specifics are unknown. Apparently, someone reported him.

At the time of the 1850 census of Marshall County, George, 10, lived with his mother and siblings, his father apparently deceased. Siblings were Jesse, Elizabeth, Nancy, Rachel, John and Jane. In 1860, George, 21, was still in his mother's home with siblings Jesse, Mary (must be the same person as Nancy in 1850), John, Rachel and Jane.

[Date & place of arrest & date of death are stated in the Camp Chase *Prison Registers*, 1862-1863, v. 55-57.]

The available records from the National Archives follow:

80

Prisoners received at Camp Chase Ohio June 1862

No	Name	Rank	Regt	Co	Arrested when	where	Age	Height	Build	Eyes	Hair	Complexion
25	M <sup>o</sup> Carthy Jas	Priv	7 Sa	B	June 10		27	5 7	Blau	Dark	DK	
26	Sawr J. W	Priv	Bath	Va	May 15		25	5 6 3	"	"	Fair	
27	Lorson St	"	Calhoun	"	" 19		30	6 7	"	Red	"	
28	Joe David	Priv		Va	" 4		17	5 5	"	DK Brn	DK	
29	Hayes Permain	Guerr	Calhoun	Va	" 28		42	5 11	Blk	Gr	"	
30	Griffin Geo B.	Priv		Va	" 15	Rowland	49	5 8	Gr	Brn	DK	
31	Boett Wm W	Priv	Webster	Va	June 13		21	6	Blau	"	DK	
32	Chouning Andrew J.	Priv	22 Va		May 23		26	6	Brn	Blk	St	
33	Smith Edward	"	10 Va				23	5 6	Blau	Red	Fair	
34	Standiford Geo	Priv	Marshall	Va	May 31		23	6 10	Brn	DK	"	
35	Watkins George	Serg			June 8		23	5 8	Gr	Light	"	
36	Tate James B	Priv	Braxton	Va	" 13		26	5 10	Blk	DK Brn	DK	



Middell 762  
 Head Quarters, ~~Mountain~~ Department.  
 Office of Provost Marshal,

Wheeling Aug 2<sup>d</sup> 1862.

Col. Wm Hoffman  
 Com. Genl Prison  
 Sir.

I have the honor to  
 enclose papers in case of Geo Standfords  
 Marshall Co. Va. prisoner (citizen) at  
 Camp Chase, O., who when recom-  
 mended by members of Legislature & Con-  
 vention of West Va., on his taking the  
 oath of allegiance & giving bond in sum  
 of one thousand dollars before Clerk of the  
 Marshall Co Court & report to me having  
 done so within fifteen days after his  
 release.

Very respectfully  
 yr obt servt  
 Joseph Darr  
 Maj + P.M.



762 1862  
Limestone Marshall Co Va June 1862

Mathew Snider being duly sworn before me  
Daniel Wilson a Justice of Peace for the County  
of Marshall va, testified as follows: On the  
9<sup>th</sup> day of May George Standiford came  
into my field where I was working. I spoke  
to him he also spoke to me. He then asked  
me what right I had to insult him on the public  
highway. I told him I had not said anything  
to insult any man, ~~neither~~ neither had I intended  
to insult any man. He then asked me, what  
Wilson Snider my son ment by saying ~~to~~  
~~me~~ he was ready to go at any time to help to  
kill rebels. I answered, that I supposed he ment  
just what he said and that Standiford's name  
was not mentioned, nor any other name & that he  
had spoken of rebels in arms ~~to~~ <sup>(Standiford)</sup> him, that he said,  
he was ready to go to kill union men too which  
he finally denied & got very angry ~~that~~ I told  
him he lied, if he denied it, & that I could prove  
it. He then shut his fists, knashed his teeth and  
came at me saying he would soon put me out of  
this. I run round out of his way and ordered  
him off my premises, he said he would go when he  
was ready. I told him I would report him and  
send him to the proper authorities. at that he  
cald down and after some more talking  
we parted, ~~except~~ promising to drop ~~the~~  
the whole matter  
Daniel Wilson J. P.



To all whom it may concern

This is to certify that George Standiford has been born and raised at Limestone Marshall Co. Va. He has always borne a good character and has <sup>been</sup> a peaceable and industrious citizen - He voted against the Ordinance of Secession; and however he may have expressed himself in private conversation we believe if he were released from confinement he would make a good loyal citizen. He is confined in the Athenaeum in Wheeling upon an alleged charge of disloyalty. The undersigned being all Union men and supporters of the constitution and laws of Virginia as restored at the city of Wheeling in 1861, believe that no harm whatever would arise to the peace and tranquility of the community by the release of said Standiford - and as we know no just cause for his imprisonment we respectfully ask for his release upon his giving the necessary bond and taking an oath to support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution of Virginia as reindicated at Wheeling in 1861 - given under our hands in the county of Marshall Virginia

June 11<sup>th</sup> 1862

William McGreey  
 Jacob Coffield  
 Jacob McGreey  
 John Fox  
 Thomas McGreey  
 Joseph Shepherd

Francis Shepherd  
 Alex ~~and~~ Caldwell  
 John Caldwell  
 Martin Caldwell  
 Abraham R. Coffield  
 John M. Baird

Samuel Wilson  
Joseph Downing  
John H. Hinton  
James W. Keyser  
William Keyser

Marshall county Virginia June  
20<sup>th</sup> 1862. I do here certify that I am ac-  
quainted with the Signers to this petition  
or some of them and know them to be  
good union men given under my  
hand the year above written  
Rene Swaney



To all whom it may Concern

This is to certify that George Standiford has been born and raised at Limestone Marshall Co. Va. He has always borne a good Character, and has been a peaceable and industrious Citizen — He voted against the Ordinance of Secession, and however he may have expressed himself in private Conversation we believe if he were released from Confinement he would make a good loyal Citizen.

He is Confined in the Athenaeum in Wheeling upon an alleged Charge of disloyalty. The Undersigned being all Union Men, and supporters of the Constitution and laws of Virginia as restored at the City of Wheeling in 1861, believe that 'no harm whatever' would arise to the peace and tranquility of the Community by the release of said Standiford — and as we know no just cause for his imprisonment, we respectfully ask for his release upon his giving the necessary bond and taking

an oath to support the Constitution  
and Laws of the United States  
and the Constitution of Virginia  
as vindicated at Wheeling in  
1861— given under our hands  
in the County of Marshall Virginia  
June 9th 1862

George W. Hays  
Alfred Caldwell  
James Chapman  
Lucas McGowan  
Thomas M. Davis  
Jacob Coffey  
John Keyser  
Amos W. Keyser  
John S. Cunningham

William W. Casey  
Daniel Wilson  
Joseph Downing  
Abraham H. Coffey  
E. McCoy



W. P.  
W. H. & Co.

James

Thomas McCreary sr.

Isaac McCreary

Joseph Shepherd

Francis Shepherd

Alexander Caldwell

Martin Caldwell

John Caldwell

Abraham R. Coffitt

John M. Beard

Daniel Wilson

John Atkinson

Joseph Downing

Amos W. Keyser

William Keyser

John Fox

Jacob Coffitt

William McCreary sr.

Marshall County Court

I do hereby certify the persons whose  
name are signed above are known to me  
with two or three exceptions to be good  
Union men. I don't certify to 2 or 3  
because they are known by me.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1862

E. H. Caldwell



# Daily Intelligencer

Wednesday Morning, June 25, 1862.

**PRISONERS FOR CAMP CHASE.**—The following is a list of prisoners sent to Camp Chase by the early train this morning, under charge of Sergt. W. A. Widney. Among the number are some of the most dangerous and wicked of the hordes of guerrillas which infest the interior counties of the Mountain Department. Quite a number have been volunteers in the rebel army—having belonged to the 22nd Va. Regiment. There is no question but that the peaceable citizens of the neighborhoods from whence these fellows came, will feel more secure and sleep sounder in the quiet of their homes, when they learn of their safe imprisonment at Camp Chase.

Name	County	County
Jessie W Goodwin...	Randolph	County.
*James B Lake.....	Braxton	do
Wm W Pritt.....	Webster	do
*Elijah Heter.....	Gilmore	do
Calvin Henter.....	Braxton	do
Alex B Goff.....	Ritchie	do
Thomas Goff.....	Gilmore	do
Adam Warner.....	Braxton	do
William Holland.....	Randolph	do
R J Simons.....	Greenbrier	do
*Peter B Righter.....	Marion	do
*T W Bakewell.....	Marshall	do
James K Boggs.....	Kanawha	do
John O Blackwood.....	Preston	do
*A A Cool.....	Webster	do
*J Clemens.....	Gilmore	do
A J Fleming.....	Gilmore	do
Andrew J Chewing.....	Braxton	do
*George C Griffin.....	Jackson	do
B W Haymond.....	Braxton	do
*Peregrine Hays.....	Calhoun	do
David Ice.....	Marion	do
A A Leeson.....	Calhoun	do
John Leeson.....	Calhoun	do
J W Lowe.....	Bath	do
John Leonard.....	Braxton	do
John McCarthy.....	St. Louis, St. Missouri.	
B F McDouald.....	Hampshire County, Va.	
B F Morris.....	Marshall	do
*James J Nall.....	Warren	do
Ed R Riffe.....	Braxton	do
George W Silcott.....	Calhoun	do
George Stainford.....	Marshall	do
Edward Smith.....	Marshall	do
Alonzo Watkins.....	—	New Orleans.
James Wands.....	—	New Orleans.

\*Guerrillas.

Maj Joseph Davis  
For Maj Genl Whiting Va  
1133 C Aug 2 1862  
A. G. O.

encloses petitions & evidence in favor  
of George Standiford Citizen  
Quinn at Camp Chase Ohio.  
and recommends his release taking  
the oath of allegiance, giving bonds  
& reporting within 15 days of release

3 Enclosures

Respectfully, as usual

1. The War Department

W. M. Hoffman

Col 3<sup>d</sup> Reg.

Can. Mus. of Wis

C. G. P.

Aug 6



Rec'd by Dugan  
Aug. 9. 1862

Head Quarters Camp  
Chase Ohio Aug 29 '62

Major Yours inquiry  
about Geo. Standiford is rec.  
I have to reply that he dies  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup>

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt

Major Darr	≡	C. B. Allison
Prof Max Gent,	≡	Col. Comdg Post
Wheeling	≡	W. Holmes
J. W.	≡	and Secy