



William B. Newman

Acting Master, Executive Officer
USS Southfield, June, 1863 – April, 1864
 03 November 1834 – 09 August 1912



USS SOUTHFIELD

USS Southfield, a 750-ton side-wheel steam gunboat, was built in 1857 at Brooklyn, NY, as a civilian ferryboat between NYC and Staten Island. Purchased by the Navy and converted to a gunboat, she was commissioned in December 1861 with Lt. CFW Behm in command. Early in 1862, *Southfield* was sent to the North Carolina Sounds, where her relatively light draft and double-ended ferryboat configuration made her a valuable asset. She participated in the captures of Roanoke Island in February, New Bern in March and Beaufort in April. After spending most of the rest of 1862 operating on Virginia's James and York Rivers supporting McClellan's Peninsula Campaign and under repair, *Southfield* returned to North Carolina's internal waters in December. On the 10th of that month, she was badly damaged by Confederate forces attacking Plymouth, N.C. During March and April 1863, she helped sustain besieged Federal troops at Washington, N.C. The Confederates again took the offensive in early 1864, involving *Southfield* in further combat actions on the Chowan and Roanoke rivers. She was off Plymouth on 19 April, in company with *USS Miami*, when the Confederate ironclad ram *CSS Albemarle* attacked. During that action, *Southfield* was rammed, sunk and remains there today in the Roanoke River.

Photo # NH 59161 *CSS Albemarle* attacks *USS Miami* & *USS Southfield*



Photo # NH 59161 *CSS Albemarle* attacks *USS Miami* & *USS Southfield*

MILITARY CAREER: CIVIL WAR

US ARMY

18 April – 28 August 1861: "90 day Enlistment" in 14th New York State Militia, Private in the Corps of Engineers, "Brooklyn Chasseurs". Participated in the Battle of Bull Run.

US NAVY

October 1861: Enlisted USN, Acting Master Mate, *USS Brandywine*, North American Blockade Squadron.

June 1863: *USS Southfield*, Acting Master and Executive Officer.
 April 19, 1864: After firing the last shot, jumped from the sinking ship with Thomas Stokes and swam to shore. Capture by Confederates as noted in his letter to his wife written in Plymouth on April 20, 1864,

My Dear Wife,

By the fortune of war I am a prisoner, Mr Stokes likewise, for how long I cannot tell but I hope to be exchanged soon. Where we are to be taken to I do not know. So far we have been treated very kindly by our captors. I saved nothing but what I stood in as the "Southfield" sank 15 minutes after the Ram struck her. I am in good health and spirits darling, so cheer up and don't be down hearted about it. Mr Stokes wants you to call on his wife and tell her he is all right. She lives at 30 Pitt St, NY. Good bye your loving husband Will

It is believed he was initially taken to Andersonville, GA with the "Plymouth Pilgrims" and then transferred to Macon, GA.

May 1, 1864 Transferred to "Camp Oglethorp", Macon, GA. From a letter to his wife dated May 22, 1864 ...

My Dear Wife,

This is the 4th note I have written you since I have been a prisoner. I hear from some of the officers from Libby that they saw my name in the N.Y. papers as being a prisoner. So I hope before this that you know that I am alive and well. I am still in good health and spirits. Do all you can to get me exchanged. Send me a box (??) with 2 over shirts, 1 under shirt, 1 towel, a tin plate knife fork and spoon, letter papers and envelopes. Some soap smoking tobacco and a wood pipe and some pepper coffee & sugar, an old felt hat (the shirts flannel common) don't send much so if I never get them they won't be much loss. Write once in a while and let me know how you and the children are getting along for I want to hear from you very much. Write on a half sheet and only on one side and only about personal matters, direct as on the envelope "Name, Rank, Prisoner of War, Macon, Ga" My love to all. Kiss the children for me and write some to your loving husband.

Wm B. Newman

October, 1864: Moved to Libby Prison, Richmond, VA for exchange and release, October 19. While on steamer "Truer", he wrote ...

Freed once more ... (able) to move about once more without a gray jacket pointing a shooting stick at me. ... I wrote many letters while in the "Confed" but never rec'd a word from home ... Oh how I do want to see you and the children once more ... my health is good but with the exception of a severe cold thanks to "Libby" (not you but the prison of that name) ... I want an out and out physicking after the living we have had lately, my blood must be in pretty bad state ... You'll see some tall feats in the eating line when I reach home ... keep a good look for your own dear Willie

October 22, 1864 Returned home in Brooklyn, NY.

MILITARY CAREER: POST CIVIL WAR

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|---------------------|--|
| Dec 1864 | Boston Yard aboard the sloop <i>Wachusett</i> |
| Mar 1865 - Jan 1867 | Sailed for the China Station |
| 11 Mar 1868 | "service in volunteer Navy," |
| 12 Mar 1868 | Commissioned Ensign |
| 03 Jun 1868 | Assigned New York Yard |
| 13 Jan 1869 | Commissioned Master |
| Mar to May 1869 | <i>USS Gelena</i> , Kittery ME to Norfolk, VA |
| May 1869 | <i>R.S. New Hampshire</i> , Norfolk, VA |
| Aug 1869 - Mar 1870 | <i>R.S. Vermont</i> , New York |
| Apr 1870 - Aug 1871 | steam tug <i>Pilgrim</i> with North American Fleet, Key West, Sanibel Island |
| 25 Apr 1870 | Commissioned Lieutenant |
| Aug 1871 | <i>R.S. Vermont</i> , New York |
| Jan 1872 - Jan 1874 | <i>USS Wasp</i> on Brazil Station |
| Aug 1874 | <i>USS Roanoke</i> , "in ordinary" at New Haven CT |
| Aug 1874 - Jul 1876 | training ship <i>USS Minnesota</i> |
| Jul 1876 - May 1877 | New York Yard |
| Mar 1877 - Jul 1878 | <i>USS Constellation</i> , en route to Europe |
| 1878 | New York Yard |
| Feb 1879 - Sep 1880 | <i>R.S. New Hampshire</i> |
| Sep 1880 - Apr 1881 | <i>USS Yantic</i> , executive officer |
| Jan 1881 - Apr 1881 | "in hospital," Norfolk VA, and New York Yard |
| Aug 1881 - Feb 1883 | <i>USS Lancaster</i> on Mediterranean Station |
| 02 Jun 1882 | commissioned Lt Commander |
| Dec 1883 - Mar 1887 | <i>USS Ossipee</i> , Far East station |
| Aug 1887 - Dec 1887 | Naval War College, Washington, DC |
| Dec 1887 - Mar 1890 | New York Navy Yard |
| Mar 1890 - May 1892 | <i>R.S. St Louis</i> . |
| May 1892 | Inspector of Light House District, Pensacola, FL |
| 01 Jul 1892 | Promoted to Commander |
| 14 Oct 1896 | Transferred to the retirement list |
| 20 Dec 1906 | Advanced to rank of Captain, retroactive to 29 Jun 1906 |
| 15 Apr 1911 | Commissioned on Retired List with rank of Captain |

DESCENDANTS

William Day Newman, Capt. USN, 1797-1844, and Miriam Swim Scofield
 Leslie Howard, 10 Nov 1830 - 31 May 1866, Lt. Cdr USN
William Bogert, 03 Nov 1834 - 09 Aug 1912 m. Elizabeth Bogardus,
 Charles Irving, 27 Dec 1856 - 26 Sep 1935 m. Carrie Marie Murphy
 Henrietta Miriam, 04 Jan 1887-27 Oct 1963
 Elizabeth Bogardus 23 May 1888 - 29 Apr 1982 m. Charles S. Krause
 Robert Stanton Krause, (Lt Jg, USN, WW2) 15 Jul 1921 - (Pompton Plains, NJ)
 Edward Bartlett, 27 Feb 1947 - (Bans Hall, NC), 2 children
 William Robert, 08 Oct 1949 - (Charlottesville, VA), 3 children
 Elmer Bartlett, Ens. USN 28 Feb 1925-18 Apr 1945
 Charles Irving, 21 Mar 1891 - 24 Aug 1934
 Maude Alexander, 19 May 1894-15 Nov 1984
 Carol Murphy, 04 Aug 1987-03 Dec 1916
 Afida Ferragione, 05 Jan 1902-06 Jun 1989 m. Milton Harr
 Alice (Hart) Mellen, 25 Sep 1939 (Stony City, IA), 3 children
 Elberta Annin, 29 Aug 1904-11 Jul 1985
 Fannie Hope, 1860 - 04 Nov 1945
 Lillie Howard, Jul 1862 - 13 Jun 1863
 William Day, 1866 - 04 Nov 1935
 Howard Ostrander, 22 Oct 1868 - 29 Apr 1950
 Leslie Herbert, 23 Apr 1874 - 1977
 Jerome Scofield, 21 Nov 1876 - 27 Aug 1945
 Cornelia Bogardus, 01 Aug 1878 - 4 Oct 1958
 Washington Irving, Jun 1836 - ??
 Fannie Miriam, 05 Mar 1840 - 24 Jan 1918
 Charles Henry, Mar 1843 - 23 Jan 1851
 James Stonewall, USN 1845-1875

* in attendance