James M. Gaston 587 Cherry Street # 5 Macon, GA 31201

Dear Mr. Gaston:

Thank you for your kind letter on your relations who attended The Citadel. It was extremely helpful, especially on Lafayette Strait. Actually, his case really exemplifies my problem on this project. The school records merely have him as L.Strait, 18 years, 3 months old when he entered in 1853. Naturally, this leaves wide room for speculation as to who he was - even if I had the detailed cemetery records of Chester County in front of me. Thus, your letter really solved my problem. I wish all of them had descendants who would write me!

I already had quite a lot on John Dunovant Wylie but had not - and possibly would not have-tumbled to the fact that he and Strait were first cousins. However, so many of the early graduates and ex-cadets - about 30 percent or more - were brothers, half-brothers, brothers-in-law, first cousins, or uncles-nephews by blood or marriage, that it has made my research considerably easier. If I were a true genealogist, I could have a field day since probably 90% would fall into some category of kinship. However, I have restricted myself to first cousin.

JOHN DUNOVANT WYLIE is covered in several sources since he was later a state senator from Lancaster. He was born Dec. 14, 1833. son of Dr. Richard Evans Wylie & Rachel McCullough. He was an attorney in Lancaster and married Eliza Jane Witherspoon. He seved as Captain, Company A(Lancaster Grays), 9th Regiment South Carolina Infantry which, during the Confederate Army reorganization of Spring, 1862, was redesignated A, 5th S.C. He was promoted Major, 5th Regiment South Carolina Infantry on Nov. 1, 1862 and Lieutenant Colonel on Dec. 24, 1862. He was state senator from Lancaster County from 1877 - 1882. He died May 15, 1894 and is buried at the First Presbyterian Old Cemetery in Lancaster. He graduated in the class of 1855. His brother THOMAS McCULLOGH WYLIE graduated in 1861.

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Thomas was born ______ 1839, was never married, and seved as a Private in the 6th Regiment South Carolina Infantry before being commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in May, 1862. Promoted 1st Lieutenant June 30, 1863, he was severely wounded at Seven Pines on May 31, 1862 and eventually died from the effects of that wound while at home on sick leave in early 1865. He is buried in the same cemetery as his brother. Unfortunately, due to the bad communications of the day, the Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General's Office never knew he had died and were in the process of dropping him as a deserter when the war ended.

I hope that the above is helpful to you. Again, I really do appreciate you sending me the information on Gilbert Moyer D. Lafayette Strait. By the way, do you have any idea what the "D." stands for? Could it be De as in de Lafayette? Thanks again!

Tim D. Moody

P.S. Please forgive my amateurish typing. Also, I put the paper in backwards on the first page and typed it on the back of the scrap page I was using as a cushion.

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