PETTIGREW BIRTHPLACE

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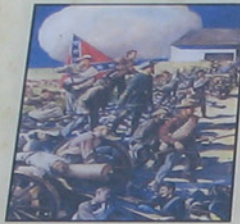## ... and Last Resting Place

James Johnston Pettigrew was born here at Bonarva on July 4, 1828. His father, Ebenezer Pettigrew, operated several large plantations in Tyrrell and Washington Counties. Johnston Pettigrew, as he was called, graduated in 1847 from the University of North Carolina, where he was regarded as a brilliant student. President James K. Polk soon appointed him an assistant professor of astronomy at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington. Pettigrew traveled to Europe in 1849, where he studied law, then in 1852 settled in Charleston, S.C., where he practiced law, edited a newspaper, served in the state legislature, and became adjutant general of the militia.

When South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860, Pettigrew was elected colonel of the 1st South Carolina Rifles.

Combat artist Alfred R. Waud captured the charge of the 6th Michigan Cavalry against Confederate positions at Falling Waters on July 14, 1863. During the rear guard action there, Gen. James Johnston Pettigrew fell mortally wounded and died three days later.
Courtesy Library of Congress

Pettigrew's brigade at Gettysburg, mural – *Courtesy Institute of Government, University of North Carolina*

Gen. James J. Pettigrew, posthumous portrait by William Garl Brown from a wartime likeness – *Courtesy Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina*

After the fall of Fort Sumter on April 13, 1861, he enlisted in Hampton's Legion, then served as colonel of the 22nd North Carolina Infantry. Wounded and captured at Seven Pines during the Peninsula Campaign in Virginia, Pettigrew was exchanged in August 1862 and assumed command of a brigade, serving in eastern Virginia and North Carolina. He and his brigade joined the Army of Northern Virginia in June 1863 and fought in one of the most celebrated episodes of

"I regret to announce the death of General J.J. Pettigrew, commanding the North Carolina brigade of Heth's division, General A.P. Hill's corps. He was wounded by a pistol-shot in the attack of the enemy's cavalry on our rear guard in crossing the Potomac on the morning of the 14th instant. The army has lost a brave soldier and the Confederacy an accomplished officer."
– Gen. Robert E. Lee, July 17, 1863

the war at Gettysburg. Pettigrew commanded a division in "Pickett's Charge" and led his men to the stone wall ("High Water Mark") on Cemetery Ridge, where he was wounded in the hand before ordering the soldiers to withdraw to Seminary Ridge. On July 14, as the Confederate army retreated across the Potomac River into Virginia, he fell, mortally wounded in a rear guard engagement at Falling Waters. He died on the Virginia side three days later. On October 29, 1867, his remains were interred in the family cemetery here. The house burned in the 1860s.

Major funding for this project was provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, through the Transportation Enhancement Program of the Federal Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century.

Trails sign located east of Somerset near the Pettigrew grave site in Pettigrew State Park, 7 miles south of Creswell – Confederate Gen. James Johnson Pettigrew was born and is buried here on one of his family's plantations. He was wounded while leading his division during Pickett's/Pettigrew's Charge at Gettysburg and again, mortally, during the Confederate retreat from that battlefield a few days later.