

William H. Kilpatrick

William H. Kilpatrick was born in 1820 in Maury County, Tennessee, to Joshua and Sarah Hobson Kilpatrick. This family migrated into Mississippi in the 1830s and lived for some time in Monroe County. Where William H. Kilpatrick attended law school is unknown, but he apparently began his law practice in Rankin County, as he was listed there with his young family on the 1850 census. By 1860, he was in old Tishomingo County, living in the town of Corinth.

According to reach by John Harris, the Corinth Rifles Company was organized within days of Mississippi's secession from the Union, in January of 1861. It had 85 officers and men, and was organized by "William H. Kilpatrick, a 41-year-old lawyer." In February of 1861, this company was inducted into the new Confederate States of America as Co. C, 2nd Regt., 4th Brigade of the Mississippi Volunteers. This company saw service in Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama. By December of the same year it was organized, it had been incorporated into other units of the Mississippi Volunteer forces, and most of these men served the duration of the war. The former Corinth Rifles served at the three-day battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

Captain Kilpatrick's family and many other families from the Corinth area were sent south before heavy fighting took place. His first wife, Jane Edmonson, with whom he had six children, was among them. While living in that area, Jane became ill and died in 1863 in Pontotoc, Mississippi, and is buried there. She had family who lived in that area, and they helped with the children.

Prior to the war, Mr. Kilpatrick had built a lovely home on what is now Fillmore Street. It now has a historic marker and is named "the Oak Home." Why he did not have that home after the war's end is unknown as of this writing, but we do know that it was used as the headquarters for General Leonidas Polk of the Confederacy during the war. General Polk was also a resident of Maury County, Tennessee, as was Captain Kilpatrick. Likely it was confiscated by the Federal government during the occupation and resold after the war. Whatever the reason, his next and last home was built on the corner of Kilpatrick and Cruise Streets, where the Corinthian Funeral Home now stands.

In 1866, he married a second time to Maggie Hay, a young woman whose family had moved into Tishomingo County from Rockingham County, North Carolina, after the death of her father. Her older brother had already settled in this area, and was likely the reason Maggie's mother brought her and her unmarried siblings along. Her mother ran a boarding house after the war.

William H. Kilpatrick and his second wife had four children. He went on to serve as a Judge in Alcorn County, which was formed from old Tishomingo County in 1870, and also served as Mayor of the city of Corinth during the 1880s. He died in 1886, and is buried alongside many family members in Corinth City Cemetery.