

North South Trader's CIVIL WAR

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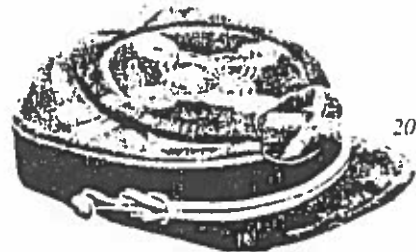
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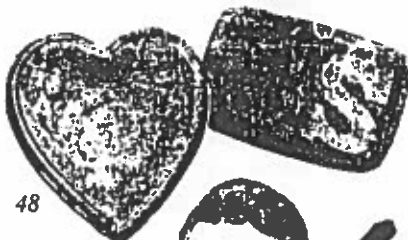
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Exploring the Civil War
artifact as a
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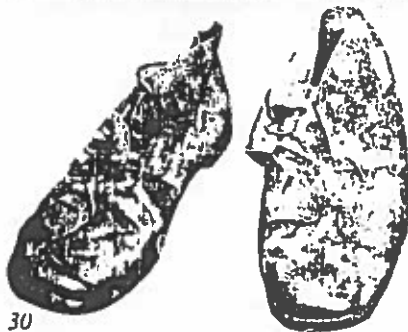
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From private to major general:

The Civil War Career of Joseph Barr Kiddoo

by Jeffrey S. Mosser



Joseph Barr Kiddoo was born on March 31, 1837, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When the war began he had barely finished studying law, but he rushed to the colors and enlisted as a private in Company K of the 12th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

The 12th Pennsylvania was recruited and organized at Pittsburgh, and the men were to serve for a period of three months. The war would, of course, be short and it was important to get to the fighting quickly; otherwise, a man might miss out on the action.

The regiment left Pittsburgh on April 24, 1861, and its first assignment was to guard the bridges along the Northern Central Railroad from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to Baltimore, Maryland. If Kiddoo had expectations of serving heroically in the face of the enemy, his hopes were soon dashed. No enemy was seen and no occasions arose for even firing a gun. The regiment was mustered out of service at Harrisburg on August 5, 1861.

Not to be denied his place at the front, Pvt. Kiddoo immediately enlisted in Company F of the 63rd Pennsylvania Vol-

Left, Joseph Barr Kiddoo wearing a nonregulation coat. The buttons are non-military and the eagles have been sewn directly onto the coat itself. Carte de visite courtesy author's collection; print courtesy USAMHI.

Right, Kiddoo wearing a regulation double-breasted officer's frock coat. Courtesy Roger D. Hunt and USAMHI.

unteer Infantry. This regiment was organized in August 1861 for a term of three years' service. Recruiting continued in the Pittsburgh area until September, when the unit was transferred to Washington. There the men performed garrison duty through the winter and there Pvt. Kiddoo was promoted to corporal on November 22nd.

Spring 1862 saw the regiment move with the Army of the Potomac to the Virginia Peninsula. They were assigned to the 1st Brigade of Brig. Gen. Phillip Kearny's Division of the 3rd Army Corps. The troops moved up the peninsula and participated in the Battle of Fair Oaks, or Seven Pines, on May 31, 1862. On the following day, Kiddoo was again promoted, this time to first sergeant. The regiment took part in the Seven Days Battles and retired to the James River with the rest of the army. Transferred back to northern Virginia in August 1862, Joseph Kiddoo said goodbye to his comrades in the 63rd. His influential friends and outstanding service record enabled him to obtain a commission as lieutenant colonel of the 137th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was organized and mustered on August 25, 1862, at Camp Curtin in Harrisburg and the men were to serve for a period of nine months. Henry M. Bossert of Clinton County was appointed colonel. Except for Kiddoo and a few officers and men who had served in the pre-war militia and in the thus far short war, all were lacking in military experience.

The 137th had the unenviable luck of being present with the Army of the Potomac at four of its bloodiest engagements: South Mountain, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. It is amazing that the regiment did not suffer a single casualty. At Crampton's Gap, the 137th was assigned to the 6th Corps and it did not come under fire. Samuel P. Bates' *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers* notes, "The Pass was carried without its active participation, though the men were eager for the fray, and bore themselves, though almost entirely desitute of knowledge in military duty, with commendable coolness." At Sharpsburg the majority of the regiment was held in reserve on the north end of the battlefield. After the battle, the men assisted in burying the dead.

In December 1862, Lt. Col. Kiddoo was given nominal command of the regiment as Col. Bossert took command of a provisional brigade consisting of the 22nd, 29th, 30th, and 31st New Jersey, the 147th New York, and his own 137th Pennsylvania. The brigade was to act as provost guards at



Aquia Creek Landing in Virginia, a major supply base for the Army of the Potomac. It was thus that they missed the slaughter at Fredericksburg on December 13th. The regiment returned to the field army the following month and joined the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Army Corps.

Weary of war and physically depleted, Col. Bossert resigned his commission on March 14, 1863. Joseph Barr Kiddoo received a promotion to colonel and replaced him.

At Chancellorsville in May 1863, the regiment did much hard marching but no fighting, and the troops returned to the army's camps around Falmouth, Virginia. A few weeks later, its term of enlistment about to expire, the 137th was ordered to Harrisburg. On June 1st it was mustered out of service there, and it appeared that Kiddoo's military career had come to an end.

But not so. On June 18, 1863, he was put in command of Camp Howe, near Pittsburgh, in the Department of the Monongahela. This department was directed by Maj. Gen. William H.T. Brooks of the regular army. Their returns for June 30th show Kiddoo in command of 534 men in six

unorganized companies. Due to Lee's invasion, the numbers had swelled by July 10th: 1,042 men, with an additional four companies of cavalry (Pennsylvania six months' militia), were present for duty. By July 21st the crisis had passed, and per Special Order No. 17, issued by Maj. Gen. Brooks, Camp Howe was to become a rendezvous for draftees. Brooks' order stated, "The general commanding desires to express his thanks to him [Col. Kiddoo] for the prompt and efficient manner with which he has discharged the duties as commandant of the camp." It looked as though Kiddoo was once again without a position, but stirring events were taking place in the country.

Early in the war, many Northerners—abolitionists among them—had put forth the idea of freeing the slaves of the South, joining them with the freedmen of the North, and letting them fight to preserve the Union. Frederick Douglass, a former slave and a spokesman for the free blacks of the North, was certain that 10,000 black soldiers could be raised in thirty days to march upon the Rebels. But the majority opinion of the American politicians and people was negative. Through military commanders such as Benjamin Butler and David Hunter, the issue was forced into the open in 1862. The following year, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation made it policy.

General Orders No. 143 and No. 144, issued on May 22, 1863, outlined the method of raising black troops under the control of the Bureau for Colored Troops. Also, boards of officers were established to examine candidates for commissions. Per the order, a candidate was required to present "satisfactory recommendations of good moral character and standing in the community" and must have testimonials from his commanding officers. Each candidate would receive "a fair but rigorous examination as to physical, mental, and moral fitness to command troops." The black regiments were numbered in the order in which they were raised, and were designated United States Colored Troops. State governors were invited to recommend individuals for examination by the boards. After a candidate was passed by these boards, the final selection of officers was made by the Bureau of Colored Troops.

Joseph Barr Kiddoo was appointed major of the 6th USCT on January 1, 1864. Five days later he was appointed colonel of the 22nd USCT.

The regiment was organized at Camp William Penn in January 1864. They departed Philadelphia on February 10th, bound for Yorktown, Virginia. Once there, the regiment was assigned to the 18th Corps, Army of the James, under the command of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler. That spring the 22nd USCT spent most of its time constructing earthworks along the James River. On May 16th, Col. Kiddoo was ordered to take his men and proceed to Fort Powhatan on the south side of the river. There they were to construct fortifications and

protect the area for the crossing of the Army of the Potomac upon its arrival from the long Wilderness Campaign. A report sent to Gen. Butler from Brig. Gen. Edward W. Hinks (commanding the division of USCTs) states, "Colonel Kiddoo is the right man in the right place, and sufficient for any affair that is likely to occur [there]."

On June 15, 1864, the 18th Corps attacked the Confederate lines around Petersburg, and the 22nd USCT played a prominent role in the attack. While heading the assault, they helped capture seven cannon and two forts. In his report of the action, Gen. Hinks praised his officers for their "gallant and soldierly behavior . . . and especially refer to the gallant bearing and soldierly behavior of Col. J.B. Kiddoo, Twenty-second U.S. Colored Troops." Casualties totalled 138 officers and men in the day's fight.

Duty in the trenches followed, and the regiment fought in the Battle of New Market Heights, or Chapin's Farm, on September 29th and 30th, losing 78 men in a gallant but unsuccessful assault. The next action for the 22nd USCT was an engagement on the Darbytown Road against the Richmond defenses on October 27th. It was to be Col. Kiddoo's last battle.

"I especially refer to the gallant bearing and soldierly behavior of Col. J.B. Kiddoo, Twenty-second U.S. Colored Troops."

—Gen. Edward W. Hinks

The regiment emerged from a wood and charged across an open field toward the Confederate entrenchments. Col. Kiddoo fell wounded and, with a large number of raw recruits having just joined the unit, confusion spread through the ranks. Col. Alonzo G. Draper, commanding the division, stated in his report of the assault: "Whatever may be said of the disorder in the ranks of

the Twenty-second, it is but just to say that Col. J.B. Kiddoo, of the Twenty-second, charged with his right company upon the enemy's works with an utter disregard for his own personal safety until he fell dangerously wounded within fifty yards of the rebel line."

Col. Kiddoo had been struck by a musket ball through the hip, and he was transferred to Chesapeake U.S. General Hospital for treatment and rest. He remained there until after the close of the war, and missed the proud moment in April 1865 when his regiment entered the Rebel capital of Richmond.

On May 21, 1865, he returned to duty, but not with the 22nd USCT, which had been transferred to Texas. Kiddoo was given a special assignment as commander of the post at Harrisburg in his native Pennsylvania. He continued in this capacity until his regiment's muster-out on October 16, 1865.

Not all the approximately 7,000 officers who led the black troops during the Civil War were paragons of virtue, courage, and intelligence, but Joseph Barr Kiddoo recognized his military responsibilities to his men and set a high standard of personal leadership. His sense of duty was to continue, as would his rise from common private to ranking officer. Just

Sometime prior to the 22nd USCT's departure from Camp William Penn, the regiment received a set of national and regimental colors. The regimental colors were painted by artist David Bustill Bowser, a talented black painter from Philadelphia. He was hired by a supervisory committee to paint regimental colors for all of Pennsylvania's black regiments (3rd, 6th, 8th, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 32nd, 41st, 43rd, 45th, and 127th United States Colored Troops). The regimental flags were of regulation size

and featured an allegorical painting on the obverse. These more often than not portrayed various vignettes of the black soldier in uniform. For the 22nd's colors, Bowser added the state motto of Virginia, "Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Thus Ever to Tyrants). The scene is of a black soldier holding a fallen Confederate color bearer at bayonet point. In the background are other black troops firing on retreating enemy soldiers.

The regiment's flag survived the war, and when the men of the 22nd returned to Camp William Penn for



Point, New York. The 22nd's colors are noted on a list of identified flags sent there.

The colors stayed at West Point until shortly before World War II. Due to severe space limitations and the deterioration of the USCT flags, most were considered expendable and destroyed. The flag shown here, once proudly carried by brave men of the 22nd USCT, no longer exists. Only its photograph survived—a sad reminder of what can happen when we fail to preserve our relics and protect our American heritage. ■

before his muster-out on August 22nd, he was promoted to brevet brigadier general for his actions at the fight on the Darbytown Road. The War Department and Congress honored him yet again on October 14, 1865, when he was promoted to brevet major general for "Gallant and Meritorious Services during the War." At the age of 28, he had attained the highest rank possible in the volunteer forces.

His military career continued, and in the spring of 1866 he was chosen to head the Freedmen's Bureau for Texas and was later appointed lieutenant colonel in the 43rd U.S. Infantry. In the ensuing years he was brevetted colonel and brigadier general in the regular army.

After several years in the Department of the Lakes

muster-out, they turned the flag over to Maj. William B. Lane, the chief mustering officer. When that office closed in June 1866, the USCT flags were sent to the United States War Department in Washington, D.C., for storage. This was because the blacks had been designated as "United States" troops and did not have a state affiliation or number.

The flags remained in Washington until 1906, when they were transferred to the United States Military Academy Museum at West

Point, New York. The 22nd's colors are noted on a list of identified flags sent there.

The author wishes to thank Dr. Richard A. Sauers of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, for his extensive research on Pennsylvania state battleflags, and Randy Huckenburg of the United States Army Military History Institute for his help in researching this article. See also the list of sources on the following page.

Jeffrey S. Mosser, a resident of the Palmetto State, has contributed a number of articles to NSTCW, among them "The Union and Civil War Money" (Vol. XVIII No. 4).

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Sources for
"The Civil War Career of
Joseph Barr Kiddoo,"
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Joseph Kiddoo

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Personal Information

Name: Joseph Barr Kiddoo
State Served: Pennsylvania
Highest Rank: Major-Gen
Birth Date: 1837
Death Date: 1880
Birth Place: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Army: Union
Promotions: Promoted to Full Lt Colonel (137th PA Inf)
 Promoted to Full Colonel ((mustered out 06/01/63))
 Promoted to Full Major (6th UC Inf)
 Promoted to Full Colonel (22nd UC Inf)
 Promoted to Brevet Brig-Gen
 Promoted to Brevet Major-Gen
 Promoted to Brevet Brig-Gen
 Promoted to Brevet Major-Gen
Biography: JOSEPH B. KIDDOO

What to do next

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Kiddoo, Joseph B., brigadier-general, was born in Pennsylvania about 1840. He entered the national service at the beginning of the Civil war as a private in the 2nd Penn. volunteers and engaged in the siege of Yorktown and in the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks and Malvern hill. He was then promoted major of the 101st Penn. volunteers and engaged in the battles of South mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, serving as colonel in the last named battle. He was promoted major of the 6th U. S. colored troops in Oct., 1863, and colonel of the 22nd U. S. colored Infantry in 1864, was present at the siege of Petersburg with the Army of the James, and was severely wounded on Oct. 4. He was brevetted brigadier-general of volunteers for gallant and meritorious service in the assault on Petersburg, and major-general of volunteers for gallant and meritorious services during the war. On July 28, 1866, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 43d U. S. infantry, but was incapacitated from active service by his wounds, and on Dec. 15, 1870, was retired with the full rank of brigadier-general in the regular army. Gen. Kiddoo died in New York city, Aug. 19, 1880.

Source: The Union Army, vol. 8

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joseph

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kiddoo

Last Name

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Joseph Kiddoo

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Military records of individual Civil War soldiers
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Personal Information

Name: Joseph Barr Kiddoo ,
Residence: Sewickley, Allegheny Co, Pennsylvania
Enlistment Date: 01 November 1861
Distinguished Service: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Side Served: Union
State Served: Pennsylvania
Birth Date: 31 March 1837
Death Date: 19 August 1880
Death Place: New York City, NY
Unit Numbers: 2327 2327 2121 2121 2959 2959 2907 2907
Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 01 November 1861 at the age of 24
 Enlisted in Company F, 63rd Infantry Regiment Pennsylvania on 01 November 1861.
 Promoted to Full Corporal on 22 November 1861
 Promoted to Full Sergeant 1st Class on 01 June 1862
 Promoted to Full Lieutenant Colonel on 25 August 1862 (*As of 137th PA Inf*)
 Discharged for promotion Company F, 63rd Infantry Regiment Pennsylvania on 25 August 1862
 Commission in Company S, 137th Infantry Regiment Pennsylvania on 25 August 1862.
 Promoted to Full Colonel on 15 March 1863
 Mustered out Company S, 137th Infantry Regiment Pennsylvania on 01 June 1863 in Harrisburg, PA
 Promoted to Full Major on 05 October 1863 (*As of 6th UC Inf*)
 Commission in Company S, 6th Infantry Regiment UC on 05 October 1863.
 Promoted to Full Colonel on 06 January 1864 (*As of 22nd UC Inf*)
 Discharged for promotion Company S, 6th Infantry Regiment UC on 06 January 1864
 Commission in Company S, 22nd Infantry Regiment UC on 06 January 1864.
 Wounded on 27 October 1864 at Fair Oaks, VA
 Promoted to Brevet Brig-Gen on 13 March 1865
 Promoted to Brevet Major-Gen on 13 March 1865
 Promoted to Brevet Brig-Gen on 04 September 1865
 Promoted to Brevet Major-Gen on 04 September 1865
 Discharged Company S, 22nd Infantry Regiment UC on 28 January 1867

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Colonel Joseph Barr Kiddoo

Now at 83, and just like all of his life, islander does things his way

Drum Solo

STORY BY TRAVIS LOLLER
The Island Packet

82 Shoreline Dr

Some people subscribe to a daily newspaper. Gordon Kiddoo subscribes to four.

He does this to keep abreast of world events, but also, he confides, because "my wife and I decided a long time ago we'd be a lot happier with two front pages, so we could each take one and then swap."

Kiddoo always has done things his way. The front license plate on his car reads "Different Drummer," and that also has been the name of the various boats he's owned over the years.

When asked why he identifies with the phrase, he offers an example.

Of a certain Age

"Let me put it this way. My wife sometimes doesn't like to go to public meetings with me because I'm not afraid to get up and be the

only one in opposition to something.

"I believe that if you have strongly held beliefs that are soundly based in facts, you should have no fear in expressing your views."

Although at 83 Kiddoo said that expression tends to take a sedentary form ("Now I sit down and write a check"), over the years he has "served as the chair of parent-teacher organizations, served as the chair of homeowners associations, served on the board of environmental organizations" and otherwise done a lot of "nonpaid, nonelected public service."

Kiddoo claims to have slowed down, but the TidePointe resident recently served on a Hilton Head Island committee to help bring affordable housing to the town.

"The only real way to do it," he says, "is to increase housing density and give tax breaks to developers."

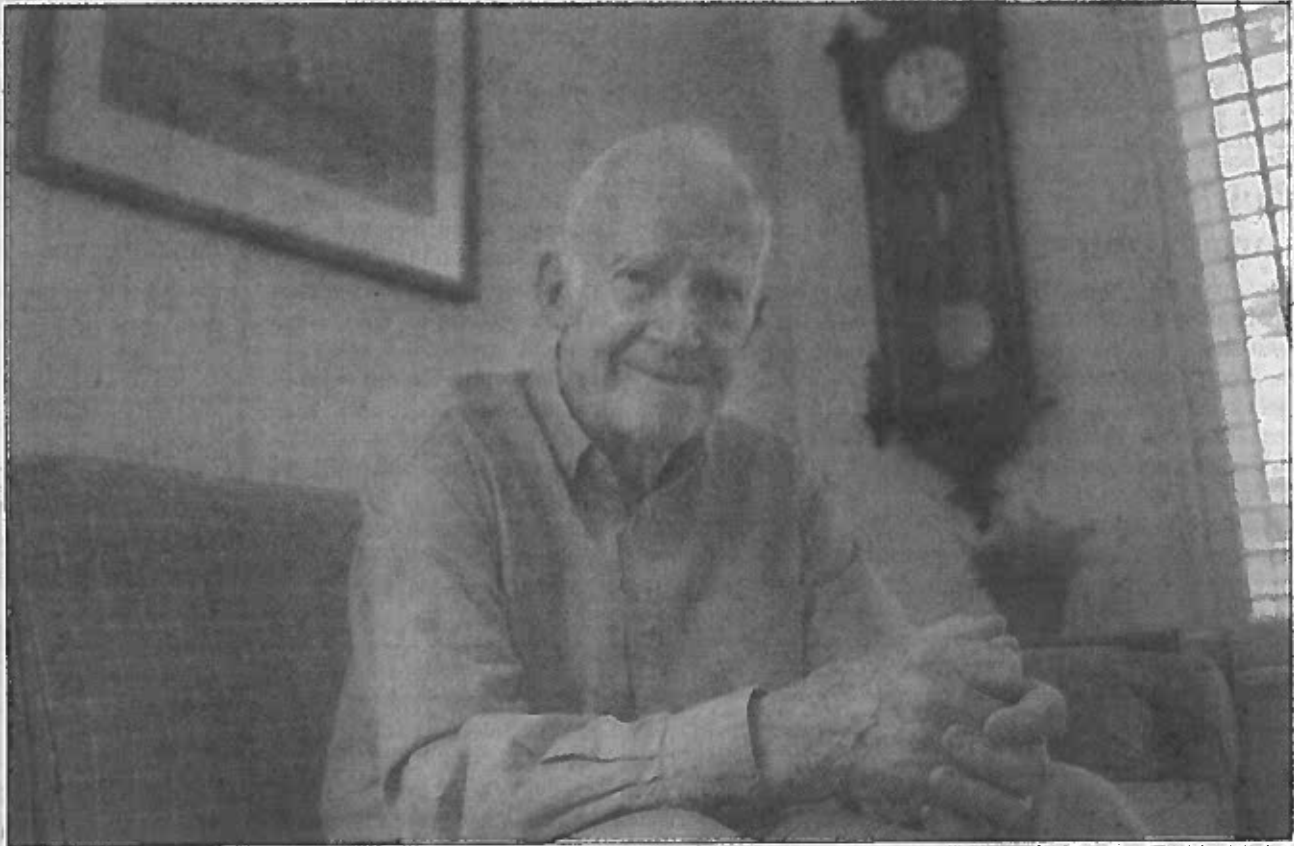
But Kiddoo's interests extend far beyond what might loosely be termed "politics."

For one thing, Kiddoo is a traveler. He's visited Hong Kong and Japan.

He and his wife, Lois, or Loie, as she's called, once chartered a boat and ran it around Ireland's River Shannon. Another time, in a trip Kiddoo described as "not a big deal" the pair took "Different Drummer," a 20-foot motorboat, around the Florida peninsula.

Kiddoo has visited Mexico many times, including on his honeymoon. During one (other) especially memorable trip, he and Loie traveled to the winter habitat of the monarch butterflies.

"It was in the mountains, about



Jonathan Dyer/The Island Packet

Gordon Kiddoo

- **Birth date:** Aug. 14, 1920.
- **Hails from:** Chicago's North Shore.
- **Greatest life lesson:** If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away.
— Henry David Thoreau in "Walden"

80 miles northwest of Mexico City at an elevation of about 9,000 feet," he says. "There were so many butterflies, the tree limbs were bent down from the weight."

Photo albums with pictures of the drooping tree limbs sit on his bookshelf. So does a copy of Vladimir Nabokov's "Butterflies," a collection of fiction and nonfiction works on the insects by the author of "Invitation of a Butterfly," a distinguished lepidopterist, or butterfly specialist.

Kiddoo says he reads mostly nonfiction, especially American history. Recently he has become a nonfiction writer, completing a 181-page bound book on the history of his and Loie's families dating back to their arrivals in America.

"I got started on it because one of my grandchildren wrote me asking me about my life for an assignment for



Special to The Packet

Above: As a businessman in the 1950s, Gordon Kiddoo used state of the art equipment — a slide rule in the background.

Top: Kiddoo, 83, is long retired, but he's still apt to speak his mind on issues he feels are important to the community, such as affordable housing on Hilton Head Island. He also likes to keep abreast of current events by subscribing to four newspapers.

school," he says. "I banged out a letter to him, but I got to thinking: I knew all four of my grandparents, but I didn't know anything about their lives.

"I resolved that I'm not going to leave my grandchildren not knowing what my life was like."

It took him the better part of two winters to complete, but not all of that time was spent working.

"With genealogical research, you make a call or write a letter and then

Please see **SOLO**, Page 4-C

Solo

Continued from Page 1-C

wait for a reply," he says. "I found it interesting and rewarding," and Loie "tolerates my interest."

Kiddoo discovered that his great-grandfather was the first settler and founder of Omaha, Neb.

"He ran a ferry boat between Council Bluff and Omaha," he says. And "Loie's grandfather made three trips by wagon from Missouri to California across the plains."

One family mystery still remains, though.

"My mother always said her grandmother's cousin married Napoleon's brother, Jerome Bonaparte.

"He did marry a Betsy Patterson, but Napoleon pressured him to dump her. We've never been able to make the connection between Betsy Patterson, the Belle of Baltimore, and my great-grandmother, Martha Ann Patterson.

Maybe there isn't any."

Kiddoo made 300 copies of his book, giving one to the Heritage Foundation Library and the others to his three children, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and assorted cousins. The relatives received the tome of family history with what he calls "polite acceptance."

"I wouldn't say they had been waiting with baited breath, but I think in later years they will

appreciate it more," he says.

Despite the cool reception, Kiddoo has continued seeking his family's ancestors, this time in Europe. He has hired genealogical researchers in Ireland and Denmark to dig into his roots. Depending on what they turn up, Kiddoo says, "I might do the book over, or maybe I'll just do an addendum."

Contact Travis Loller at 706-8140 or tloller@islandpacket.com.