

The Incredible Drum Journey

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THE INCREDIBLE DRUM JOURNEY

- **IF THIS DRUM HAD THE GIFT OF SPEECH, WHAT SECRETS MIGHT IT REVEAL?**

- In 1861, in Warthen , GA, in Washington County, local men organized the Jackson Guards that became Company B with Capt. George W. Sparks leading them to do their duty for the Stars and bars. Soon they were ordered into active duty, but not without Captain Sparks younger brother, Thomas. Too young to fight, but old enough to be the drummer boy. Carrying his drum that as made by a slave on the plantation, Thomas led the company of high spirited men into battle. At Cold Harbor Creek, VA, June 28, 1862. Thomas S[parks impulsively gave his drum to a wagoner close by. With fire of battle in his eye, he dashed forward with a gun in hand declared, "I'm going to fight!"
- **What happened to Tom Sparks?**
- He lived without his drum from 1864 until 1916 and died in 1920 at the age of 77.

- **What Happened to the drum?**

- It was picked up by a stranger on the battle field in 1864 and was passed from owner to owner before it was returned to Thomas Sparks in 1920.
- **How was the drum returned?**
- A man traced the markings on the drum until he found the owner, Thomas Sparks.
- **How did Washington County Research Center receive such a fascinating gift?**
- The drum remained in the Sparks family until the last male heir died. With his death, the remaining family members made the decision to return it to Washington County, it's original birth site.
- For extended answers to these questions and much more exciting information get our booklet.