

The Civil War Comes Home

As *civil war approached* in the early 1860s, Athens and East Tennessee were greatly divided in loyalties. After the Confederate states seceded from the Union, the first referendum on secession was voted down in Tennessee. It failed by a large margin in East Tennessee, in spite of Governor Isham Harris promoting secession. It was only after South Carolina fired on Ft. Sumter and President Lincoln called on the loyal states to raise 75,000 volunteers to force the new Confederacy back into the Union, that the second referendum to secede passed statewide. It still failed in East Tennessee.

Tennessee in general, and this area in particular, supplied many troops to both sides in the Civil War. Tennessee furnished more men to the Union army than did several states that remained in the Union. Research into Civil War soldiers and veterans buried in the three Athens City cemeteries illustrates the divided loyalties. The list includes Confederate soldiers, one employee of the Confederate War Department and both black and white Union soldiers from this area. Also included are soldiers from both northern and southern states who moved here after the war.

The headstones of the veterans vary greatly. The federal government supplied stones for honorably discharged Union veterans free of charge. The GAR Garfield Post 25 based here in Athens oversaw ordering these markers. Though all Union veterans did not request stones, some have both civilian and military markers. Government stones list name, rank, company and regiment, but rarely birth and death dates. The Confederate government no longer existed after the war so there are no stones supplied by the Confederacy. Some civilian stones of Confederate veterans do note service of the individual.

The 7th Tennessee Mounted Infantry, USA, was raised in Athens late in the war, and no records have been found to indicate they left the city. They guarded the railroad and the town, which was by then Union-occupied. On January 29, 1865, the Confederate Cavalry of General John C. Vaughn, who was from Sweetwater, raided Athens and took possession of the courthouse and downtown square for several hours.

The Confederates captured deputy provost marshal **Major John McGaughey** who had been a justice of the peace and was in his upper sixties. He was killed that day and subsequently buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery. He lies next to his wife under a large arched monument.

Joel I. Pyott, 1st Infantry USA, was a pension attorney after the war. His signature appears on many Union pension forms from Athens.

Thomas Nixon Van Dyke Jr., 63rd Infantry CSA, was one of four Van Dyke brothers to join the Confederate Army. He became ill around Cumberland Gap and was sent home to recover, but died and was buried in the family burial ground that later became Cedar Grove Cemetery. Only one Van Dyke brother who served survived the war.

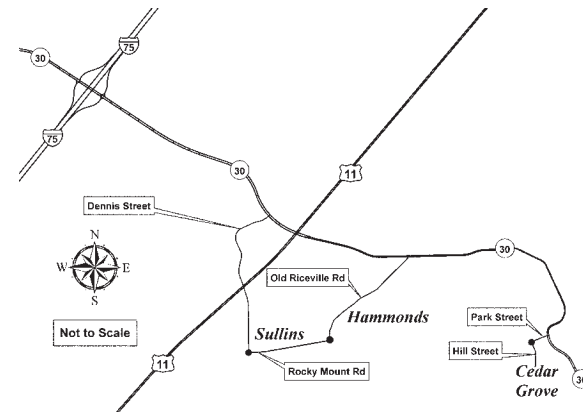
Professor David A. Bolton, 25th Battalion Indiana Infantry, USA, served in Tennessee with General Henry Thomas against General John Bell Hood. After the war he came to Athens, earned his degree at East Tennessee Wesleyan College, and served many years as a professor of mathematics and officer of the college.

Patrick Spriggs served in Co. C, 42nd Regiment USCI, USA, that was raised in Chattanooga. The 42nd is one of two black regiments represented in the city cemeteries; the other is the 1st Regiment USCHA, raised in Knoxville. Spriggs had a blacksmith shop at the creek end of Black Alley (now Long Street) in 1900. He lived to be 92 years old and was a charter member of Post 25 of the GAR here in Athens. The organization, made up of Union veterans, ceased to exist about a year after Spriggs's death when Alfred Hacker died in 1937.

Martin D. Luther, Co. I, 25th North Carolina Infantry, CSA, was born in North Carolina. A drummer boy, he was noted as the last surviving drummer from General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and played the last roll call before the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, when General Lee surrendered to General Grant. Later he moved to McMinn County. Late in life Luther was invited to address a meeting of the GAR where, in a noble example of reconciliation, he said that he felt just as near to them as if they had worn his color.

William T. Lane was a private in Co. C, 1st Tennessee Cavalry (Carter's), CSA. The company was known as Lane's Guards because Lane's father supplied horses for the unit. Richard Van Dyke of Athens was captain of Lane's company. After the war Lane was a candidate for attorney general, a gifted attorney, secretary to Congressman Snodgrass, editor of the *Athens Post* and commander of the United Confederate Veterans Post in Athens, named in his honor, until his death.

Veterans, Confederate and Union, came home to Athens to find a very divided society. With time, reconciliation healed the wounds, and today they rest side by side in the same cemeteries – as close as if they had worn the same color.



For additional assistance in finding burial sites at Cedar Grove consult the Information Kiosk.

Every effort has been made for accuracy, however, to share corrections or information about veterans not included in this brochure, please write laurabl@att.net.

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To learn more about local history, visit E.G. Fisher Public Library, McMinn County Historical Society & Archives and McMinn Living Heritage Museum.

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Civil War Veterans at Rest

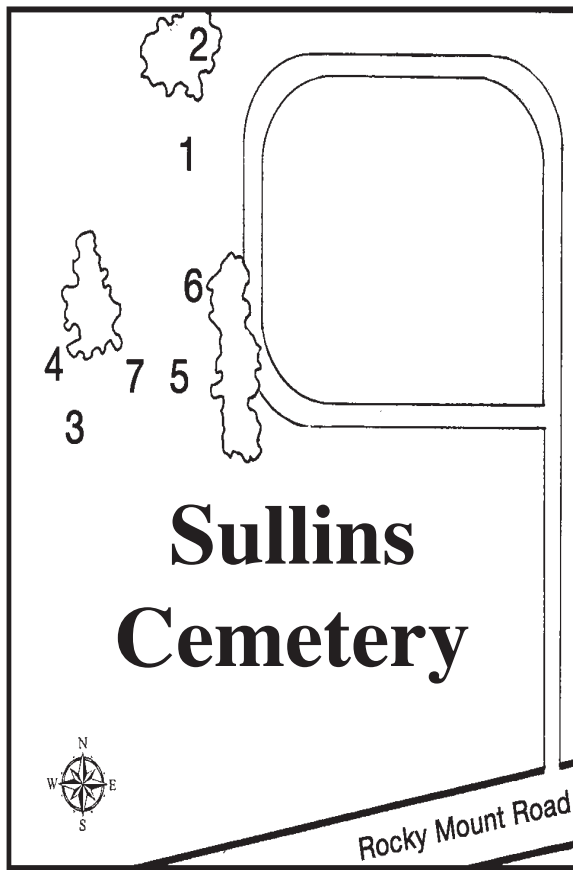
A Guide to Civil War Veterans and Soldiers Buried in the Athens City Cemeteries



Cemeteries of Athens Preservation Association

Athens, Tennessee





Sullins Cemetery

1. Robert F. Browder (1814-May 30, 1873)

Pvt., Co. G, 5th (McKenzie's) Tennessee Cav., CSA. Browder enlisted at about age 36 and returned home to continue farming.



2. Robert E. Cate (Nov. 25, 1831-Mar. 14, 1916)

Pvt., Co. H, 43rd Regiment Tenn. Volunteers, CSA. Cate enlisted in 1862 at Riceville with Colonel J.W. Gillespie. He surrendered at Vicksburg, Miss., was hospitalized and then paroled July 15, 1863. Upon returning home to farm, he joined the McMinn County militia.



3. Simeon Grishom Edgeman (Mar. 20, 1842-Jan. 9, 1912)
Pvt., Co. H, 19th Regt. Tenn. Infantry, CSA. Edgeman enlisted in June 1861 at Knoxville with Col. Gillespie for one year. He was discharged June 15, 1862, and returned to farming in McMinn Co.



4. Louis Rhea (Apr. 13, 1844-Dec. 29/30, 1913)
Corp., Co. H and K, 3rd Tenn. Mounted Inf. (Lillard's), CSA. Born in Tellico Plains, Tenn., Rhea enlisted at Mt. Vernon, Tenn., in Mar. 1862 at age 18. He was paid a \$50 bounty. He surrendered at Vicksburg and was paroled July 10, 1863. He was later a farmer in McMinn Co.

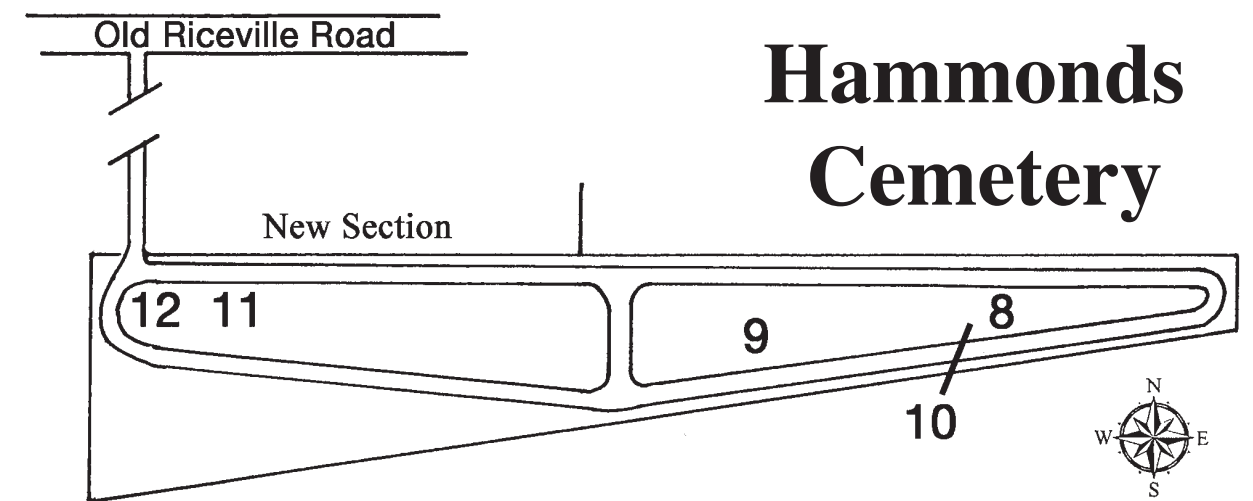


5. Enoch Lafayette Tefferteller (Jan. 20, 1840-Jan. 12, 1916)
Pvt., Co. A and H, 29th Tenn. Inf., CSA. Tefferteller enlisted in Knoxville, July 26, 1861, with Col. Gillespie and by Dec. 1862 had been wounded at the Battle of Murfreesboro. When J.E. Johnston reorganized the Army of Tenn., the 29th Tenn. Inf. became part of the 2nd Consolidated Inf., which was paroled at Greensboro, N.C., May 2, 1865, after the Battle of Bentonville.

6. George Winder (Sept. 11, 1835-Oct. 16, 1910)
Pvt., Co. L or C, 8th Tenn. Cav., USA. Winder enlisted Sept. 28, 1863, and was discharged Sept. 1865. His name appears in the local GAR records in 1906.



7. Charles Wyatt (alias Charles Wiget) (June 24, 1843-1913)
Pvt., Co. A, 7th Tenn. Inf., USA. Wyatt, born in Tenn., enlisted Oct. 1862 at Bradfordsville, Ky., and served until Apr. 1863. He married in 1864 and was a farmer in McMinn Co.



Hammonds Cemetery

8. Charles A. Cleag (Clegg) (b. circa 1823)
Pvt., Co. A, 1st USCHA, (on stone USCLA), USA. Cleag, age 41, enlisted Feb. 11, 1864, in Knoxville. He is listed on the meeting roster of the local GAR in 1904. The GAR ordered his grave marker in 1910.

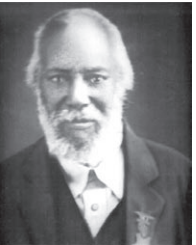


9. Robert Gudger (b. in Gillmore, Ga., circa 1848)
Corp., Co. E, 42nd USCI, USA. Gudger enlisted Sept. 23, 1864, in Chattanooga at age 16. He mustered out in Huntsville, Ala., on Jan. 31, 1866. In the 1910 and 1920 census, Gudger is listed as boarding in the Ivins Addition/Mill Street with Nellie Deadrick, widow of George Deadrick, a fellow Union veteran.

10. George W. Henderson (Dates unknown)
Pvt., Co. H, 1st USCHA, USA. Henderson enlisted in Oct. 1864 and mustered out on Mar. 21, 1866. He was a member and officer of the Garfield Post Number 25, GAR. His occupations through the decades are listed as plasterer, brickmason and, in 1913, janitor at the courthouse.



11. Patrick Spriggs (July 28, 1849-Aug. 20, 1936)
Pvt., Co. C, 42 Regt., USCI, USA. Spriggs, who was raised in Bradley Co., enlisted in Chattanooga under the name Patrick Murphy. He was involved in two skirmishes: Dalton and Sand Mountain. He was a charter member of the local GAR Post. In the 1900 Athens City Directory, he is listed at 1 Black Alley as a blacksmith. Spriggs was a charter member of Beth Salem Presbyterian Church.



12. Jackson Wilson (b. circa 1829)
Pvt., Co. L, 1st USCHA, USA. Wilson, born in McMinn Co., enlisted in Sept. 1864 in Knoxville and mustered out in Mar. 1866 in Chattanooga. Wilson is listed in the 1890 Veteran Schedule.



CSA	Confederate States Army
GAR	Grand Army of the Republic
UCV	United Confederate Veterans
UDC	United Daughters of the Confederacy
USCHA	United States Colored Heavy Artillery
USCI	United States Colored Infantry
USCT	United States Colored Troops

