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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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"Surrender at Appomattox" painting by Tom Lovell (1909 -1997)

July Camp Meeting

The program for the July camp meeting will be a discussion of the surrender at Appomattox and the events leading up to it. It is critical that camp members make every effort to come to the meeting, since attendance has fallen off sharply during the summer months. Some of us will understandably be on vacation, etc., but please try to be there.

New Camp Member: Clint Anderson

We're extremely pleased to welcome Clint Anderson as our newest camp member. Clint and his family have done a lot of genealogical work to document his family history, and we have not had such detail submitted to support a membership application in a long time.

We look forward to Clint bringing youth and vigor to the camp. Be sure to introduce yourself to Clint and make him feel welcome to our organization.

June Camp Meeting

Sorry to say that I was unable to attend the June camp meeting and will be away for the July meeting too. Therefore, I have no report to make. If someone would like to make a report on the July meeting, I will be more than happy to print it in the next issue.

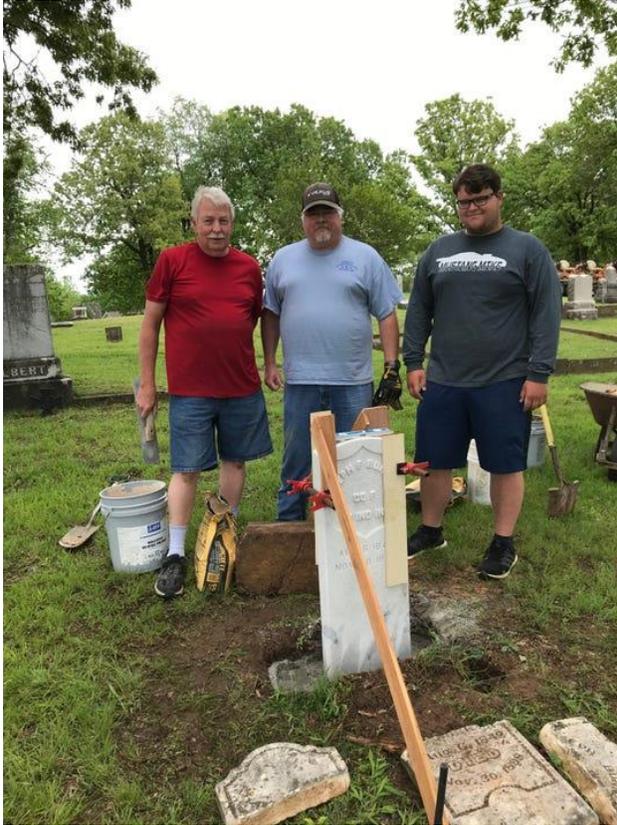
The Editor

Headstone for Civil War veteran tells soldier's story

Debby Stanuch, Special to *The Baxter Bulletin*,
Mountain Home, AR

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Indiana man fought for the Union — not the Confederacy — as previously thought.



Paul Norell, Kevin Bodenhamer and Gabe Smith are shown after erecting a new headstone for Civil War veteran Joseph Bunnell at the Mountain Home Cemetery. (Photo: Submitted Photo)

Hidden deep in the soil of cemeteries are secrets and mysteries buried with the stilled bodies of those who rest there.

One such mystery, held by Civil War veteran Joseph Bunnell — who rests in the Mountain Home Cemetery — was recently discovered by Kevin Bodenhamer and Vincent Anderson, members of the Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society and the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The story was unearthed when Paul Norrell, caretaker of the cemetery, discovered Bunnell's broken headstone. Norrell, Bodenhamer and Anderson have been working together to clean, straighten and repair headstones in the cemetery, but Bunnell's was damaged beyond repair.

The headstone said simply that Bunnell was born on Aug. 6, 1842, and died on Nov. 30, 1898. He was buried in the Mountain Home Cemetery, where records identified him as a veteran of the Confederacy.

The three men believe it is important to replace badly damaged headstones and knew Bunnell's headstone could be replaced by the United States government, at no cost to the cemetery.

Anderson, the reference librarian at the Donald W. Reynolds Library, undertook the challenge of completing the paperwork required by the Veterans Administration. During his research, he found a number of men named Bunnell in the records of Confederate soldiers, but none that matched Joseph. Anderson turned to records of Union soldiers and there he found the Joseph Bunnell he had been looking for; not a Rebel, but a Yankee soldier.

"I was surprised to find out Joseph was a Union veteran, but I knew we needed to know his story and also pay respect for his service during the Civil War," Bodenhamer said. "We realized that he needed a new marker and his story should be told, no matter which side he was on."

Their curiosities piqued, Anderson and Bodenhamer began delving into the story of Joseph Bunnell and his historical link.

Born in White County, Ind., in 1942, Bunnell, a farmer, was 19 when he enlisted in the 27th Indiana Infantry in September 1861 and was attached to the Army of the Potomac. In the late spring of 1862, he participated in operations in the Shenandoah Valley, including the Battle of Buckton Station and the Battle of Winchester. On Sept. 17, 1862, he was among the 87,000 Union Soldiers under the command of Maj. Gen. George McClellan who fought 38,000 Confederates commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee in the Battle of Antietam. Considered the bloodiest day of the Civil War and in U.S. history, the casualties totaled 22,717 killed, wounded, captured or missing.

Among the wounded was Bunnell, who sustained a gunshot to his right ankle. He was transferred to a military hospital and discharged in November 1863. Deemed physically unfit for the Veteran's Reserve Corp, he returned home to Indiana, where he married Sarah Virginia Cain on Dec. 3 of the same year.

In 1881, the Bunnells moved to Ava, Mo., and by 1888 owned 160 acres on Turkey Creek, secured by a land patent. He filed for his \$54 Civil War pension in 1892 and in 1898, the couple moved to Baxter County to live

with their daughter, Ina May and her husband John Eberhard.



The original headstone for Civil War veteran Joseph Bunnell did not identify which unit he served with. Bunnell was thought to be a Confederate veteran until research for a replacement headstone revealed his service in the Union army. (Photo: Submitted Photo)

He died on Nov. 30 of that year at the age of 56 and was buried in the Mountain Home Cemetery. His widow, who died in 1927, is buried in the Ava Cemetery beside their daughter, Ina May.

Anderson and Bodenhamer want to learn more of Joseph Bunnell's story and would like to hear from anyone knowing of Bunnell relatives from Baxter County, Ava and/or Indiana. They can be reached through the Baxter County Historical Society at (870) 425-2551.

According to Norell, counting Bunnell there are three Union soldiers and at least 37 Confederate soldiers buried in the Mountain Home Cemetery. "We are still researching these soldiers and are sure there are more stories and histories to be uncovered in this historic cemetery," Bodenhamer said. "The work must continue to find an answer to their history."

"Kevin and I both have relatives, Union and Confederate soldiers, who are buried in Baxter County and the

Ozarks," Anderson said. "We find it an honor to work on behalf of Civil War veterans, no matter what side they fought on or represented. In the 1890's and early 1900's, many veterans buried their animosities and looked toward the future. These veterans not only memorialized their conflicts, but they stressed to their children and grandchildren their animosities and grievances should never come to war."

According to Norrell, the city is responsible for the oversight of the cemetery, but is not financially responsible for the cemetery site. A cemetery board, whose members are appointed by the city's mayor, pays for the site's care and upkeep through donations and the sale of cemetery plots. Much of the major work and maintenance, he said, is done by prisoners from the Calico Rock State Prison and Act 309 prisoners from the Baxter County Detention Facility. An information kiosk at the cemetery's entrance, built by volunteers through donations from the Kathy Lueck Memorial, provides the names and locations of people buried there.

A recent donation from Mountain Home native Jeannie Alley provided new fencing for the cemetery. Donations are currently being sought to erect a flagpole at the cemetery entrance.

A historical guided tour of the cemetery, by Anderson and Bodenhamer, is planned for 10 a.m. Nov. 2. New military markers, including Bunnell's, will be dedicated at that time. Each April, local chapters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy conduct a Confederate Memorial Day service at the cemetery.

The Mountain Home Cemetery, located at 1160 South Main Street behind the Guy Berry School, is open to the public. For more information on the Mountain Home Cemetery, the availability of plots, to volunteer or donate, contact the City of Mountain Home at (870) 425-5116. Information on the Mountain Home Cemetery and all Baxter County Cemeteries is available through the Baxter County Historical Society at (870) 425-2551.

Recognizing Confederate veterans

A 1906 Congressional Act formally reaffirmed Confederate soldiers as military combatants with legal standing. It grants recognition to deceased Confederate soldiers, commensurate with the status of deceased Union soldiers.

United States Public Law 810 approved by Congress in 1929 authorizes the Secretary of War to erect headstones over the graves of soldiers who served in the Confederate Army and directs the preservation in the

records of the War Department the names and places of burial of all soldiers for whom such headstones have been erected.

It also broadened the scope of recognition for Confederate soldiers to receive burial benefits equivalent to Union soldiers and authorized the use of government funds to mark Confederate graves and record their location.

Battle of Honey Springs Reenactment November 1-3, 2019

This biannual event will include two battle reenactments and self-guided tours through the Union, Confederate, and civilian camps. Witness military drills, demonstrations, and living history programs. Sutlers Row will feature a number of vendors selling clothes, books, souvenirs, and reproduction nineteenth-century military equipment. Visitors from around the state come to see special presentations and watch the battle. This reenactment is a scripted battle, meaning the reenactor companies and regiments make the same actions that were taken in the original battle, on the original battleground.

Admission is \$5 for adults and children 12 and under are free. The battle reenactment will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Battle of Honey Springs, fought July 17, 1863, was the most important engagement of the Civil War in Indian Territory.

For more information regarding this event and the Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center, please email honeysprings@okhistory.org or alynn@okhistory.org, or call 918-473-5572. Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center is located east of US Highway 69 between Oktaha and Rentiesville. The Visitor Center is located on a hill in close proximity to the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame in Rentiesville. Take the second left after reaching the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame Museum (driving from the west).

Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center Battlefield History

The Engagement at Honey Springs was the largest of more than 107 documented hostile encounters in Indian Territory. The engagement took place on a rainy Friday, July 17, 1863, between the First Division Army of the Frontier, commanded by Major General James

G. Blunt, and the Confederate Indian Brigade led by Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper. Cherokee and Creek regiments fought on both sides. There were approximately 9,000 men involved including American Indians, veteran Texas regiments, and the First Kansas Colored Volunteers, which was the first African American regiment in the Union army.

The Honey Springs Battlefield is listed on the National Register of Historic places. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013.

REENACTMENT
THE BATTLE OF
HONEY SPRINGS

NOVEMBER 1-2-3, 2019

The Battle of Honey Springs fought July 17, 1863 was the most important engagement of the Civil War in Indian Territory. Event activities include two battle reenactments and self-guided tours through the Union, Confederate and civilian camps. Witness various military drills, demonstrations and living history programs. "Sutlers Row" features a number of vendors selling 19th-century reproduction military equipment, clothes, books, and souvenirs.

• CHARGES & COUNTERCHARGES! • INFANTRY
• CAVALRY • ARTILLERY • MEDICAL

ADMISSION- Adult \$5.00 12 & under FREE

Reenactments begin at 1pm - Sat. & Sun.
Checotah, Oklahoma near I-40

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
www.okhistory.org/hsb
918-473-5572

LIKE US AT HONEYSPRINGS



Camp Calendar

- July 25 Camp Meeting – Hardesty Regional Lib.
- August 22 Camp Meeting – Hardesty Regional
- Sept. 10 Joint Camp Meeting – SCV/SUVCW at Hardesty Regional Library
- Nov. 1-3 Reenactment of Battle of Honey Springs

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