

Madison's Confederate Graves

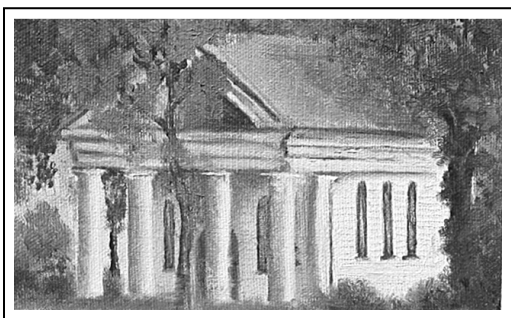


Fig. 29. This first building of Madison's Episcopal Church of the Advent was razed in early 1940 after being sold to the City of Madison for cemetery expansion. Courtesy Episcopal Church of the Advent

During the War Between the States, Madison, Georgia's City Cemetery was located exclusively on a hill on the south [east] side of the Georgia Railroad track, ¼ mile west of the town square. The cemetery surrounded two sides of the 87-foot-square lot of the small Episcopalian congregation's Advent Church. This Greek Revival-style church [Fig. 29³¹⁰] was erected in 1853 facing Cemetery Street [now called Central Avenue] at its intersection with an alley behind the houses which fronted 2nd Street, now called Academy Street.³¹¹

From August 1862 through June 8 or 9, 1864, one Union prisoner of war, one "stranger," and 20 Confederate soldiers were buried in a group in the city cemetery near the church. After those 22 burials, beginning June 9, 52 Confederate soldiers and three African American hospital attendants were buried in another group on the opposite side of the track in county property. Each of the 77 graves was probably marked with a wooden headboard.

Shortly after the war, the Union remains were removed 102 miles south to Andersonville Cemetery. The remaining 21 Confederates on the

south side of the track may have been moved from the City Cemetery to elsewhere in Georgia, as were many then in the South. In 1881 Madison officials expanded the boundary of the City Cemetery to the north [west] of the track and reinterred closer to the track the group of 54 remains there [one had been removed previously]. New headstones for those, most with identifying inscriptions, were placed in 1892. In 1957, still newer headstones for that group were placed, each simply inscribed: Unknown Confederate Soldier.

But in the early 1970s, newly found c1868 diagrams of the layouts of both groups of graves once again brought to light the identities of many of the deceased soldiers, resulting in still newer headstones for the remaining 76 graves depicted in the diagrams. Unfortunately, however, during the placement of those headstones in 1978, the diagrams were not only misinterpreted as to the actual location of one entire group, but all individual headstones were placed in incorrect locations within each group, and several were placed in an incorrect group altogether.

the first buried, a Union prisoner

In 1862 Madison was the site of a Confederate prison for Union military officers and loyalists, and for an infamous group of Union "train thieves."³¹² Nearly 700 political prisoners, most of whom were residents of towns in East Tennessee, were transported to Madison from April to December that year. The 22 train thieves arrived and departed within three days that May. Over 200 Union officers were transferred in from June to September from other prisons and battles, especially the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. During May through December that year, by ones, twos, dozens, and hundreds, all prisoners were released by various means: into Confederate service as new enlistees, to their homes with newly-sworn allegiance to the Confederacy, to other prisons in the South, and by death and burial in the Madison area.³¹³

In Madison, the men were housed in a "dirty, lousy, and filthy hole," an abandoned, three and one half-story brick steam mill one half mile south of Madison's railroad depot and about 300 feet northwest of the railroad track. At least 15 men died during their incarceration there, and were more than likely buried on or near the prison grounds. One, however, a lieutenant from Iowa, was buried in Madison's City Cemetery.³¹⁴

Born in Ohio, Simon F. Eccles in 1860 was a farmer in Tama County, Iowa. At age 27, in October 1861 he enlisted in Company G of the 14th Iowa Infantry as a 1st sergeant. He was promoted to 2nd lieutenant in January 1862 and three months later was taken prisoner along with most of his company at Shiloh. Transferred from a prison in Macon, Georgia, he arrived at 1:00 o'clock in the morning on July 10, 1862, with 96 other Union officers at the prison in Madison and died there August 27, after less than 10 months on active duty. Eccles was buried parallel to and next to a walkway in Madison's City Cemetery, close to "the churchyard" of the Episcopal church.³¹⁵

Four months later, on Christmas Eve 1862, the last of the prisoners were transferred out, and the old steam mill was again vacant. Soon after the war, the remains of Lt. Eccles and those of 10 to 14 prisoners³¹⁷ were moved to the newly created National Cemetery at Andersonville, Georgia. Lt. Eccles' grave number there is 13560. [Fig. 30] Ten other Madison prisoners were also reinterred in the same row – six to the left and four to the right of Eccles' grave – and are identified as "Unknown."

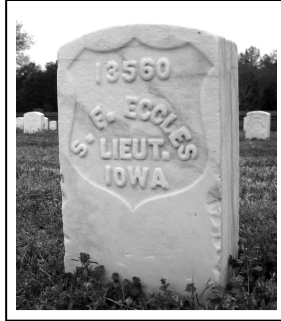


Fig. 30. The headstone of Lt. Simon F. Eccles, Andersonville Cemetery. Photo by the author

Confederate burials

The first person buried in what was to be the Confederate soldier section of Madison's City Cemetery was actually "a stranger killed by the cars"³¹⁸ on October 8, 1863, about seven weeks before the arrival of the Confederate hospitals, which were then stationed closer to the battlefield in north Georgia. His grave was positioned parallel to and across the walk from the grave of Lt. Eccles.

During the last days of November that year, three of the hospitals of the Army of Tennessee were evacuated to Madison, and by the last week of December, the first of Madison's Confederate hospital dead was buried near the stranger.

From December 1863 through June 8 or 9, 1864, 20 Confederate soldiers who died in the Confederacy's hospitals in Madison were buried in the City Cemetery, eventually forming one rectangular grouping, each grave oriented east/west, south of and parallel to the walk. Including the stranger, the 21 were buried generally in three long, straight rows.

Each row contained six to eight graves aligned head-to-toe, the first row next to the walk with eight graves. The second row, squarely in line with the first and a few feet to its south, had at least seven graves, and the third, again in line and a few feet south of the second, had at least six graves. Allowing for about nine feet by five feet of land area per burial, this rectangular burial ground would have been approximately 15 by 72 feet.

the second group

On June 9, burials of deceased hospital patients began in a different area, possibly due to limited space in the City Cemetery and the anticipation of a sharp rise in soldier deaths. At least two soldiers died that day and were the first two to be buried on the opposite side of the Georgia Railroad track³¹⁹

This was on a wide flat-topped ridge which jutted out about 1,100 feet to the north northwest of the track, an extension of the hill on which was situated the City Cemetery and which was bisected by the track. The 55 side-to-side burials there were in three rows parallel to the track. They included 52 Confederate soldiers and three African American hospital attendants. Allowing for about nine feet by five feet of land area per burial, this rectangular burial ground would have been at least 27' X 140'. [see Fig. 31, an 1865 photo of a Confederate cemetery in Virginia which would have looked very similar] This entire group of remains was eventually moved, and while the exact original location is not known, several factors help pinpoint the site to its first row bisecting the ridge about 200-250 feet from the track. [see Appendix 8]

The first row of the 55 Confederate burials on the ridge, the farthest from the track, originally included 23 soldiers' graves. Facing the track, the bodies were buried from left to right as the deaths occurred, with few variations, from June 9 through at least July 6, 1864. Soon after the war, one of these bodies, most likely buried in the last week of June, was removed. At the south end of this row, and distinctly separate, were buried the three African American hospital attendants.

The 23 burials in the second row, squarely in line with the first and a few feet closer to the track, followed the same burial pattern from July 8 at least through July 27. One body in the center of that row was possibly buried out of chronological order, and, if so, by his date of death, was one of the many soldiers being cared for in private homes, maybe one of the patients too sick to travel when the hospitals quickly evacuated Madison on July 23, 1864.

Six graves formed the third row, again a few feet closer to the railroad track, but offset to the right by three spaces. At least three of the six contained remains of soldiers who died in the spring of 1865. Possibly all had been patients in May Hospital which relocated from Augusta, Georgia, to Madison in February of that year.

Each of the graves probably initially had a wooden headboard which was possibly painted white, inscribed, and had a life expectancy of not more than five years.³²⁰

U.S. Naval officer Levi Crowell described, in his diary of incarceration in Madison, Lt. Eccles' death and burial in 1862:

*Thursday [August] 28th. Fine weather. Last night Lieutenant Eccles, Fourteenth Iowa Regiment, died in the hospital on the second floor. His disease was chronic diarrhea. He was a single man belonging to the state of Ohio. He has been sick ever since he was taken prisoner (April 6). It is hard to die away from home among strangers and in an enemy's country and in prison, but we know not how long we will remain here or how many of us may die here and our remains be deposited in the churchyard of this town. The funeral was this afternoon. Lieutenant Stokes preached a short discourse and made a prayer. The remains were followed to the churchyard by fifteen officers belonging to Lieutenant Eccles's regiment, who were present at the funeral and were attended by 15 guards who walked behind the officers.*³¹⁶



Fig. 31. Richmond, Virginia, Confederate soldiers' graves, with board markers, 1865.

diagrams of Madison's Confederate graves

More than likely, it was the disintegrating condition of the original headboards that necessitated the drawing of diagrams of the Confederate graves in Madison c1868. [Fig. 43, page 340] On a single, large sheet of paper, and based on the deteriorating headboard inscriptions, an unknown draftsman drew out, numbered, and identified each set of remains as interred in its original group. Of the 77 graves in the diagrams, 28 were noted as "Unknown," three as "Hospital Attendant Colored," and one as "Removed." The balance of 45 graves in the diagrams, and thankfully, the majority, include some type of legible identification [at times erroneous], from as little as a soldier's regiment's state to a soldier's three initials to a soldier's full name, rank, company, regiment, and date of death.

Since the one Union soldier and all of the hospital patients and attendants were fully known at the time of burial, their graves would have been correctly marked in 1862-1865. If the diagrams had been drawn during or immediately after the war, each grave depicted would have had a full identification based on those headboards and/or hospital records. The author concludes that the many instances of "Unknown" on the diagrams were so written due to their being copied several years later, when the wooden headboards were decayed and inscriptions nearly illegible. Moreover, based on the hospital records herein, the author has determined that some of the clearly legible names on the diagrams are actually misinterpretations of the original headboard inscriptions.

The 20.4" wide by 13.7" sheet of paper documents two separate diagrams. One is entitled "Diagram of Soldiers Graves in the City Cemetery." This west-east oriented group includes the earliest burials in the "City Cemetery" parallel to a "walk." The death dates recorded include August 1862 through the first part of June 1864.

The second diagram, entitled "Diagram of Soldiers' Cemetery, Madison Ga West Sid[] Rail Road," is of a north northeast / south southwest oriented group of burials of June, July, possibly August 1864, and of Spring 1865 on the north [west] side of the Georgia Railroad track, on the ridge.³²¹

Unfortunately, no date was cited on the document, but the author theorizes that the diagrams were drawn c1868. This is based on: 1) Union soldiers being moved to national cemeteries during late 1865 through 1870, and Lt. Eccles' grave number in Andersonville Cemetery corresponds to his being reinterred there about the midpoint of that range, and 2) the life expectancy of wooden headboards being five years or less, some already illegible when the diagrams were drawn.

honoring the graves

One year after the end of the War Between the States, in April 1866, the mothers and wives of local Confederate soldiers met at Madison's Baptist Church and formed the Ladies Memorial Association of Morgan County, "its sole object being to provide appropriate services for Memorial observances on April 26th." They also took on the responsibility of the upkeep of the City's Confederate graves, kept no minutes of their meetings, and disbanded in less than 13 years along with their services.³²²

While there are no known extant newspapers which report Confederate Memorial Day events in Madison between 1866 and 1877, during that time the townspeople definitely honored the Confederate dead each April 26. In 1878 the local newspaper reported preparation for the ceremony with citizens tidying the soldiers' graves and painting the fencing.³²³

On May 6, 1879, another group formed – the Morgan County Confederate States Service Survivors Association. The first line of the first meeting's minutes reads, "a goodly number of ex Confederate Soldiers assembled in the Court House today to take steps for the organizing of a Survivors Association...for perpetuating in some form our services, and for mutual benefit." At the September meeting that year, the group announced that the Ladies Memorial Association, being "well nigh dead," they would ask the "ladies to reorganize to see that their graves be kept from decay."³²⁴

Thus was resurrected the service of the ladies, who took charge of the Confederate Memorial Day program for many years, maintaining a tradition of raising funds and arranging for the annual patriotic oratory, solemn prayers, and brass band music in the old courthouse on the square, followed by a procession to the City Cemetery. There, little girls laid flowers on all the Confederate graves – on those in the "Soldiers' Cemetery," and on the newer ones of Confederate soldiers, who, one by one, died after the war. The crowd, wandering about among the graves, sometimes reverently remained until nightfall.³²⁵

21 Confederate graves lost to history

While the first extant newspaper report of Confederate Memorial Day – 1878 – described the burials as the "soldiers' Graves" and noted the associated fencing, the next year, and in all subsequent annual news reports of the day, there was mentioned only one group of graves – the "Confederate Cemetery" – with no reference to two separate groups separated by hundreds of feet and a railroad track. Likewise, there was never any mention of where and how any of the soldiers had died.

In the pre-Memorial Day newspaper issue of 1880, and in more detail than usual, the plan for the day's ceremonial procession was described as starting at Madison's Methodist church, which was then located in its c1844 building on 2nd Street [now Academy Street] and which now houses the Episcopal Church of the Advent. The group, it was reported, would then parade "to Main street, down Main street to the Baptist church, thence down Cemetery street [later renamed Central Avenue] to the soldiers' cemetery. Here the column will halt, form into open order along the line, and the children, with flowers and wreaths, will march through the gate, enter the grounds, filing right and left and decorate the graves of our hero dead, during which time the band will furnish music." This 1880 reference was, again, to only one group of graves.³²⁶

In 1884, three years after the reinterment closer to the track of the group of 54, the Confederate survivors' minutes referred only to "the soldier's square in the cemetery," when they agreed to request the City to cover it with sand. For the annual

ceremony that year, the *Madisonian* reported that the public was requested “to meet at the Soldier’s Cemetery promptly at half past 5 o’clock, with flowers and evergreens,” leaving no question that the Soldiers’ Cemetery was considered only the one group of 54 Confederate graves. Fourteen years later, in 1898, “the crowd marched to the new cemetery to decorate the graves of the soldiers... Here lie the remains of 54 Confederate heroes, some of them unknown...” In 1900 the march was again only to the New Cemetery to the “fifty-four soldiers’ graves,” and a year later to the “Confederate plot.” Moreover, in 1904 Mary Chiles Ware, a teenager in Madison during the war, wrote that “many mounds had been made on the hill side beyond the city cemetery... To this spot wended each springtime the ladies and children of Morgan County on the 26th of April...”³²⁷

What had happened to the 20 earliest burials of Confederate heroes and the stranger?

city cemetery expansion

Fourteen years after the end of the War Between the States, during the spring and summer of 1879, citizens of Madison pleaded with City officials to secure new cemetery grounds. “Look at our old cemetery, how rapidly it is being filled up all the ground being occupied,” said ‘Old Citizen’ in the newspaper. “What shall we do? In a few years more it will be impossible to get a resting place, for some departed one, in the old hill side cemetery. Besides, the colored people are passing away rapidly, and both white and colored being interred in the same enclosure.”³²⁸

A group organized and met July 14 to discuss the issue formally. Motions were made and passed to authorize the Mayor and City Council to proceed in securing new burial grounds.³²⁹

Within the year, the City of Madison had plans to expand the cemetery onto a piece of privately owned land located across the track. This included about one half of a 10.6-acre ridge which projected naturally northwest of and about 17 degrees off perpendicular to the Georgia Railroad track.

Legal acquisition of the acreage began in December 1880 with the City’s buying from the estate of tanner Leroy M. Wilson for \$108, the 5.95 acres on the western portion of the ridge. The early cemetery plan [Fig. 32] included road access to present-day West Washington Street. This road was never built. Possibly its construction was made unnecessary with the 1881 receipt from Morgan County of the remaining 4.65 acres of the ridge, which bordered the track.³³⁰

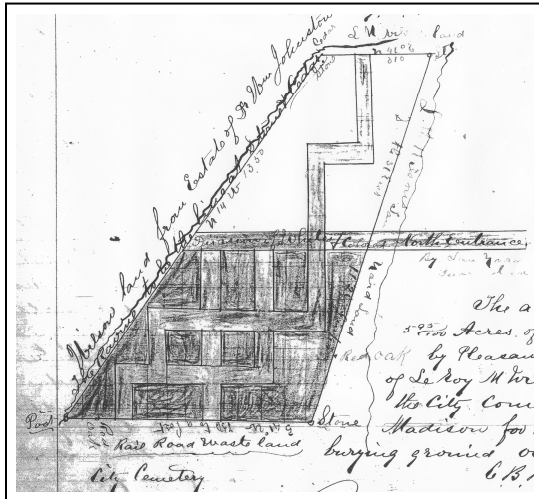
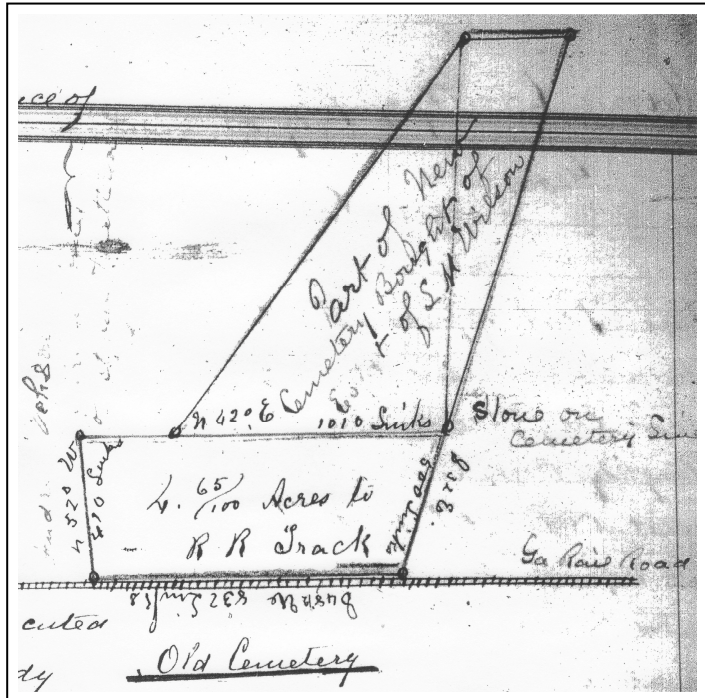


Fig. 32. Above: December 1880 preliminary plat of the New City Cemetery with the City's purchase of Wilson's 5.95 acres on the ridge.

Fig. 33. Right: January 1882 plat of the New Cemetery with the addition of the county's 4.65 acres bordering the north [west] side of the Georgia Railroad.



During the first days of 1882, a much more detailed plan of the proposed cemetery was drawn for the City. [Fig. 34] The total 10.6-acre cemetery expansion onto the ridge would include several cemetery roads and scores of plots for hundreds of gravesites for sale in the “New Cemetery.” The approximate half closest to the railroad track was for burial of “white people,” with the farther half for “colored people.” A smaller portion beyond was the “Potter’s Field.” When executed by Surveyor Cyrus B. Barrow on January 13, 1882, the proposed plat noted in two of the planned plots, burials already in place. One of these was labeled “E.H. Cohen,” the man who was mayor of Madison at his death August 29, 1881.³³¹

In this drawing there were no soldiers’ graves out on the ridge, since the City’s profitable new cemetery plan called for their relocation. In fact, the 1882 plat clearly shows five rows of 54 marked graves of “Confederate Dead,” all of which already had been reinterred closer to the track. [Fig. 34 inset]

reinterment

Just six months earlier, in June 1881, the Confederate Survivors explained, “[I]t is proposed by the municipal authorities to remove the Confederate dead from their present resting place in order to facilitate contemplated improvements of the new cemetery which has been recently annexed to the Confederate Soldiers Cemetery.” The Survivors added, “We beg to enter our protest against the removal of our dead comrades...the spot known as the ‘Confederate soldiers’ graves... [W]e confidently urge upon your body that the new cemetery be laid off and beautified to as good advantage by allowing the ashes of our former associates to rest in peace... Touch not that hallowed ground.” But their “valued allies, the Ladies Memorial Association...assented to said removal,” and the Survivors “acquiesce[d] in said removal” in “deference to the feelings of the Ladies...”³³²

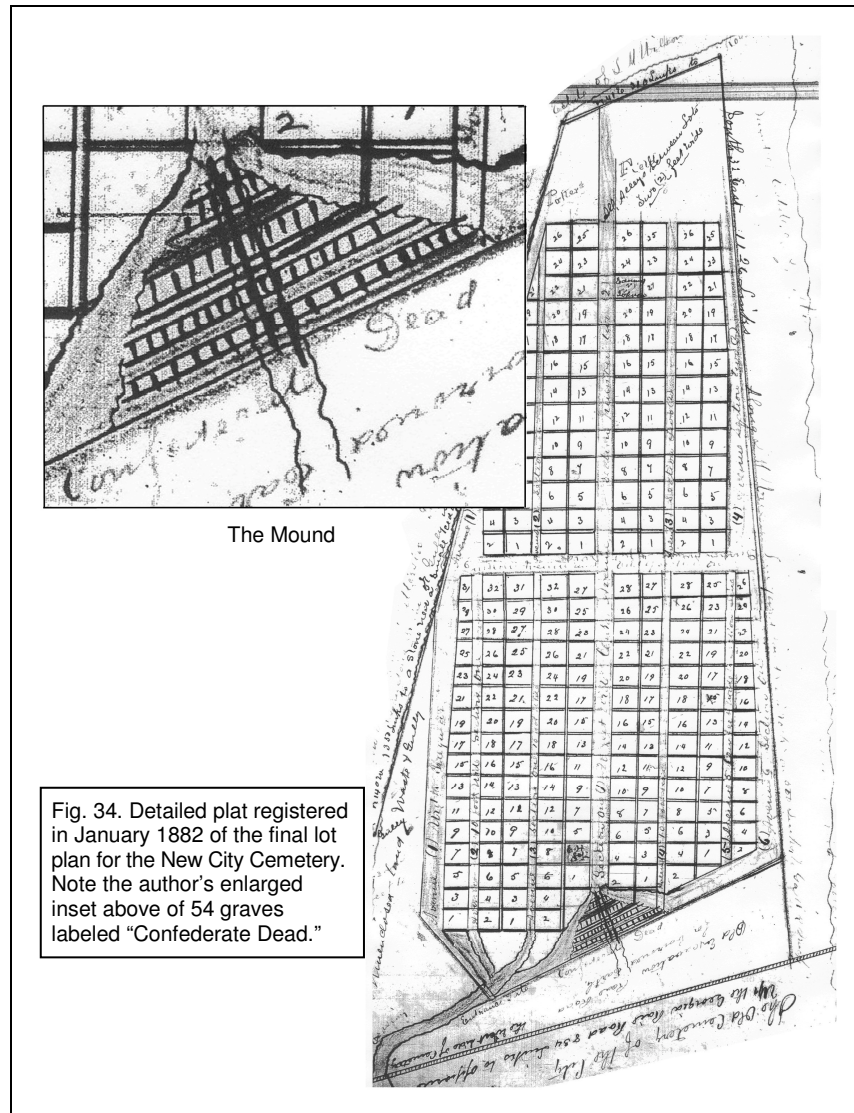


Fig. 34. Detailed plat registered in January 1882 of the final lot plan for the New City Cemetery. Note the author's enlarged inset above of 54 graves labeled "Confederate Dead."

Against the wishes of the Confederate Survivors, during the last half of 1881 the 54 Confederate remains in the “yard” were reinterred closer to the track “at the head of Central Av.,” a newly-conceived road which cut through the length of the New Cemetery at its center. The new burial ground area, a small piece of former “railroad wasteland,” at present-day is 45 feet at its widest, runs about 140 feet along the CSX Railroad right-of-way, and is roughly triangular in shape. This area is the highest point on the ridge, and the now paved roadbed that curves around two sides of the area appears to have been graded. The burial area is about three feet higher than the road. Due to this, or the fact that the community thought of the plot as one large burial mound, its moniker in at least since the first half of the 20th century was simply: the Mound.³³³

In January 1882 Morgan County donated to the City of Madison the rest of the ridge – 4.65 acres between the newly-acquired Wilson property and the track. [Fig. 33] This included the railroad right of way, and completed the City's 10.6-acre cemetery expansion plan.³³⁴

The “divine custom” of Confederate Memorial Day continued each year on or around April 26, culminating at the “Soldiers’ Cemetery” with the laying of “garlands,” “floral wreaths,” and “Confederate flags” on the “sacred mounds.”³³⁵

In 1886, the Survivors pressed city officials to complete the agree-

ment they had made with the Ladies in 1881 “when the bodies of our comrades were removed, by putting a stone wall around the cemetery.” By April 26, 1887, the wall was in place. A toppling line of bricks, possibly a remnant of that wall, now partially borders the front edges of the Mound, and a four-foot-wide granite step occupies the center front.³³⁶

The struggling Covington and Macon Railroad Company erected a line of railroad track in 1888 between the Mound and the Georgia Railroad track, about 42 feet north of and parallel to the latter. The building of that railroad bed created a deep 30-foot-wide and 700-foot-long gully to its north [west] side, which still cuts a swath between the track and the Mound.³³⁷

In 1892 the Survivors made plans to “have a headstone put at the grave of each soldier in the soldiers’ section of the New Cemetery, and those in the old cemetery unmarked.” “Commodore” George N. Dexter, a local undertaker and coroner, was given the duty. Within a year he “had headstones put to all the graves of our comrades in the Veteran’s section in the new cemetery and those in the old cemetery not marked.”³³⁸ These were marble, 24 inches by 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, as represented by one surviving stone. [Fig. 35] This one sample is inscribed “UNKNOWN” with “5” above, which correlates to the #5 grave on the “Diagram of Soldiers Cemetery” labeled “Unknown.” When retrieved from the rear border of the Mound in 2003, it was in three pieces, and is now protected within the Morgan County Archives. In 1898 the *Madisonian* lamented that some of the remains in

the soldiers' cemetery were unknown, implying that many were known. This reveals that the headstones placed there in 1892 were inscribed with identifying information for many, in all probability from the inscriptions in the then extant diagrams.³³⁹

In the early 20th century the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy [UDC] assumed responsibility for the observance of Confederate Memorial Day. Whereas in 1898 only "some" of the graves were of unknowns, sadly, by at least 1936 the entire section was identified in newspaper accounts as "Unknown Confederate Dead."³⁴⁰

The Confederate Memorial Day program in 1957 included the dedication of 53 new headstones [Fig. 36] for the group on the Mound. All but one of the old 1892 headstones were "broken and discarded," and the cemetery diagrams were lost after 1892. Subsequently, of the 53 new headstones, 51 were inscribed "Unknown Confederate Soldier;" one was identified as a "Negro Hospital Attendant," and one was identified as Edward A. Furlow, a Confederate soldier who had died in 1902.³⁴² The new marble headstones, each two feet wide, one foot long, four inches tall, and nestled into white sand, were donated by the Georgia Historical Commission.³⁴³ The group totaled 53, and probably also included the last surviving 1892 headstone.

At that same time, the Commission donated and placed there a bronze historical site marker [Fig. 37] inscribed: "Confederate Dead. Here are buried 51 unknown and 1 known Confederate soldier and one Negro hospital attendant. These men died of wounds or disease in the Confederate Hospitals located near by, the Stout, Blackie, Asylum, Turnbull [see textbox, right] and some temporary ones. These hospitals operated from late 1862 to early 1865. Gallant Confederate women of this vicinity helped care for the sick and wounded men. The Federal raid here on November 18, 1864 did not molest the hospitals. 104-7 Georgia Historical Commission 1956."³⁴⁴

partial identifications

Thirteen years later, around 1970, during a major renovation of the c1905 brick courthouse in Madison, then Probate Judge Nell Fears discovered, tucked behind "big metal file cabinets in the vault" in the basement, the long lost document containing the two faded, hand-drawn diagrams of 77 graves – 44 soldiers, 28 unknowns, three "hospital attendant[s] colored," one "stranger," and one "removed." At that time, the theory of the Confederate graves' location in Madison [now disproved by the hospital records herein] was offered by an official in the Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans: "Madison was a refueling stop for the Georgia Railroad trains between Atlanta and Augusta. And those 76 who were buried in Madison expired somewhere between Atlanta and Madison and were buried alongside the tracks as they were taken from the train."³⁴⁵

In the 1970s, while some of the handwriting on the diagrams was still clear, much had grown faint and was illegible. With the help of the copying and enhancing equipment of Atlanta's Georgia Institute of Technology and through the magnifying glasses and research of Mrs. Fears and Ted O. Brooke and the late Morris G. Cornelison of the James W. Longstreet Camp 1289, Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans [SCV], much of the writing was deciphered and many of those buried in Madison were verified as soldiers of various regiments throughout the Confederate States Army.³⁴⁶



Fig. 35. Only surviving Confederate headstone placed in 1892.

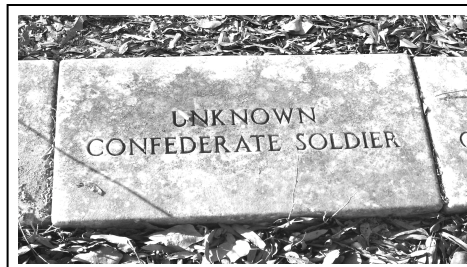


Fig. 36. One of the 53 Confederate headstones placed in 1957. Photographs by the author



Fig. 37. Two commemorative site markers on the Mound: the tall bronze marker placed in 1957, and the shorter marble marker placed in 1978. Note the old 1957 headstones used for the latter's base.

Turnbull Hospital

*"Notably among the private homes caring for the Confederate sick and wounded was the Porter home, now owned by Mrs. Turnbull – the beautiful old Colonial home stands far back in a beautiful grove of trees, shrubs and flowers, rare in variety adorn the old flower garden on the East."*³⁴¹



Fig. 38. One of the 76 Confederate headstones placed in 1978.

Subsequently, in May 1978, under the auspices of the UDC and SCV, 76 new marble headstones [Fig. 38] were erected. Ordered by Mrs. Fears from the National Cemetery System of the U.S. Veterans Administration,³⁴⁷ each was one foot wide, four inches deep, and once placed, approximately 30 inches from the pointed top to ground level. Each was adorned with the Southern Cross of Honor.

Fifty-one of the 53 headstones placed in 1957 in the New Cemetery, plus the 1892 headstone, were removed. The two remaining were those of one "Unknown Confederate Soldier" and Edward A. Furlow. Fifty-two new headstones inscribed with the newly-researched identifications were placed with them in four rows of varying lengths on the Mound in the New Cemetery. [Fig. 41, page 333] A historical marker was also erected: "Graves marked in 1978 by the James W. Longstreet Camp 1289 Sons of Confederate Veterans and Morgan County Chapter #573 United Daughters of the Confederacy"; and "Ted O. Brook / Morris G. Cornelison." [Fig. 37]

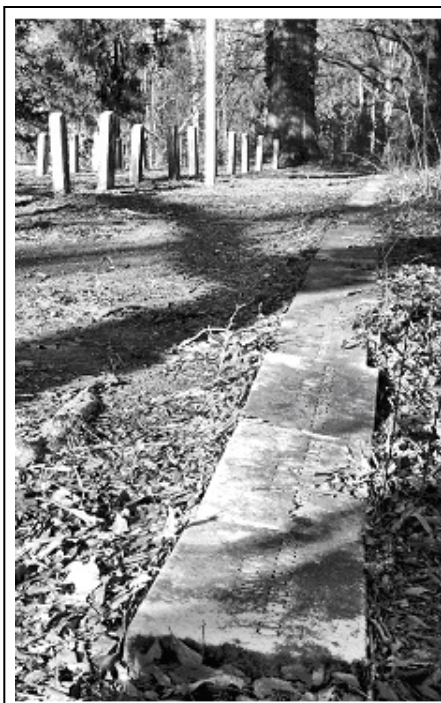


Fig. 39. Forty-three of the 1957 headstones now border the back of the Mound.

Photographs by the author

At the same time, in the Old City Cemetery, nearly parallel to the tracks and about 250 feet south of the former group, the remaining 24 of the new headstones were erected in three rows of eight, beginning about 40 feet from the track. [Fig. 40, page 330]

The two groups of headstones totaled 78. While this number is not consistent with that of the 76 graves in the diagrams, this 78 also includes two extra headstones on the Mound – the 1905 Furlow headstone and one 1957 "Unknown Confederate Soldier" headstone replaced within the rows there.

Fifty-one of the 53 1957 stones survive, 43 of which now decoratively border the rear edge of the Mound above the gully [Fig. 39], one which still marks a grave there as mentioned above, the Furlow marker, and six which form a base for the 1978 historical marker [above right]. The surviving 1892 marble headstone, as described previously, was found in line with and on the south end of that rear border.

misplacement of headstones

A local undertaker, now long deceased, was given the responsibility of placement of the headstones in 1978. The resulting layouts of the two groups of headstones in several ways show misinterpretation of the c1868 diagrams.

First of all, apparently it was assumed in the 1970s that the document represented only one diagram - two groups of graves immediately between which ran the railroad track. However, closer inspection shows that each diagram is independent of the other, each having its own directional orientation. The group in the "City Cemetery" is oriented with "west" written to its left, and "east" to its right, parallel to a "walk." That group is not at all associated with the other group, which has its own arrow designating north, about 100 degrees off the former.

Second, apparently it was not known in the 1970s that the group of remains on the Mound originally had been located about 200 feet farther out on the ridge, and that the diagrams had been drawn during their location there, prior to their removal to the Mound in 1881. The triangular Mound could not have held the 54 graves in the layout of the diagram.

Third, in 1978 none of the headstones was placed per the diagrams in their proper locations within each group, and moreover, the headstones of six soldiers, one African American hospital attendant, and the stranger were placed in the wrong cemetery altogether.

Finally, in May 2006 a survey by ground-penetrating radar of the area occupied by the 24 Confederate headstones in the Old City Cemetery revealed no graves at all at or near those headstones, and only two elsewhere in the large clearing behind them. This investigation was done by archeologists of the Georgia Department of Transportation, with author Bonnie P. [Patsy] Harris and then Morgan County Archivist Marshall "Woody" Williams in attendance and assisting.

Conclusively, Confederate headstones in both war-era cemeteries do not represent specific burial locations. The subsequent two groups are, however, a most fitting memorial to the bravery, suffering, and sacrifice of the many soldiers and civilians who, during the War Between the States, died in Madison, Georgia, most in the Confederate Hospitals.

Perhaps the actual location of the group of 22 originally buried in the Old Cemetery will never be known. The author theorizes that, like the Union soldier who was reinterred soon after the war in Andersonville Cemetery, the "stranger" and 20 Confederate soldiers were moved to another cemetery in Georgia, at the latest in 1878, and probably before 1870, to clear more land in the City's profitable burial plot trade.

diagram research and hospital records

Well into the 21st Century, the handwriting of the cemetery diagrams has further faded, but hospital records herein have advanced the earlier efforts to identify the 77 sets of remains. Clearly, all but two, and possibly a third, died while being treated in one of Madison's four Confederate hospitals.

Extant records herein include reports of 60 deaths at the three hospitals while located in Madison for the eight months from December 1863 through July 1864 [see list at the end of this chapter]. For deaths associated with an individual hospital, 33% were patients at Stout Hospital in the old steam mill, 33% were patients at Blackie Hospital at the Madison Female College building, and 15% were patients at Asylum Hospital at the Georgia Female College building [The remaining death reports have no associated hospital.].

The author compared the 60 death reports, hospital records of those soldiers, NARA Civil War Service records, and other available primary information, with the 76 1978 headstone inscriptions. Of those:

- 9 match perfectly and require no change.
- 11 require only minor corrections and / or additional information.
- 28 require substantial change. They include the headstone of the stranger, the Union soldier, all three hospital attendants, and many formerly unknown Confederates..
- 28 remain unknown.
- 21 memorialize the remains of 20 soldiers and one stranger, all of which the author theorizes have been reinterred elsewhere in Georgia; and one 1978 headstone, inscribed as unknown, can be said to still memorialize the Union soldier, whose remains were reinterred in Andersonville Cemetery.

It is the author's fervent hope that the headstone inscriptions of the war dead in Madison's two cemeteries will one day be corrected with this updated information.

compilation of updated information

For many of the remains depicted in the c1868 diagrams, there follows a compilation of information from:

1. Original c1868 cemetery diagrams.
2. SCV 1970s research.
3. Locations and inscriptions of the present-day headstones placed in 1978.
4. Hospital records herein.
5. NARA Civil War Service Records.
6. U.S. Census.

The resulting identifications are arranged below in two lists, each based on the placement of the 1978 headstones, which can be followed either in person at the cemeteries or by the digital drawing in Fig. 42, page 339. Refer to the following legend:

For present-day location of each 1978 headstone:

- South [S] refers to Madison's Old City Cemetery group, the 24 1978 headstones located just south [east] of the railroad tracks. North [N] refers to the group of 52 1978 headstones and two 1957 headstones located in Madison's New Cemetery, just north [west] of the railroad tracks.
- The first number refers to the row number, beginning with Row #1, the row closest to the tracks in each group.
- The second number refers to the individual headstone, beginning with #1 on the north end of its row.

For soldier identification:

- Inscription on each 1978 headstone is in *ITALICS*.
- [DR] **Diagram Research**. First, the location of this soldier's grave in its diagram – "S"³⁴⁸ denotes graves in the Old City Cemetery diagram south of the tracks, "N" for those in the New City Cemetery diagram north of the tracks, and "1", et. al., for each grave's number in its diagram. Second, in quotation marks, are verbatim notes from the 1970s cemetery diagram research.³⁴⁹
- [AN] **Author's Notes**.
- [HR] **Hospital Records** herein. Note that many hospitals records are no longer extant. Death reports were included in each Morning Report generally written at 7AM and covering admissions, deaths, etc., for the previous 24 hours.
- [CSR] Information from NARA's **Civil War Service Records**, online at www.fold3.com.
- [CH] Author's recommendation for **Changes to Headstone** inscription based on compiled information – [MC] for **Minor Change**, [SC] for **Substantial Change**.

NOTES:

- The placement of each of the 76 1978 headstones was made without regard to its location in the c1868 diagrams.
- In the 1970s diagram research report, next to several of the deciphered names, a disclaimer was written, such as, "unverified, although this printing is very legible." If the author's theory is correct – that the diagram inscriptions were originally transcribed c1868 from the nearly illegible, disintegrating wooden headboards placed at the graves in 1862-1865 – errors were a certainty.
- The dates refer to the date of the hospital report, generally made at 7AM, which includes events of the previous 24 hours.
- The Union soldier's information is included at S-1-2.



Fig. 40. Present-day photo, facing south, of the 24 Confederate headstones placed in 1978 in Madison's Old Cemetery. The railroad track is to the photographer's right and back, basically parallel to the three rows. Photograph by the author

South ROW 1

S-1-1 UNKNOWN CSA SOLDIER 1864

DR: S6 "C.J.C. Battle (?) (Butte, Battee?). Unverified."

AN: No additional information. These remains probably were removed to elsewhere in Georgia between 1868 & 1878.

CSR: No additional information

CH: [SC] C J C B CSA 1864

S-1-2 UNKNOWN CSA SOLDIER 1864

DR: S22 "L. (Lieut?) S.T. Beesin (?) (Beeler?), 4th (41, 45th?) Tenn (Iowa?). Unverified."

AN: Since the 1970s diagram research was unable to identify this soldier, his headstone was inscribed "Unknown." During the research for this book, however, he was identified as Union Soldier Lt. Simon F. Eccles, Co. G., 14th Iowa, who died in 1862 while incarcerated in the Confederate prison in the Madison Steam Mill. His remains were reinterred in Andersonville Cemetery soon after the war. [See the narrative inset on the second page of this chapter for more information.]

CSR: No additional information [www.fold3.com has limited Union soldier information.]

CH: [SC] This headstone should be removed altogether.

S-1-3 R H NEAYES 41 TENN INF CSA MAY 22 1864

DR: S12 "C. (?) Neayes (?) (Keyes?), Co. E 29th Cav (?) or 24th Ala (?), died May 22 1864. Possibly read as R/H/ Neayes (?), Co __, 41st Tenn, died May 22, 1864."

AN: These remains probably were removed to elsewhere in Georgia between 1868 & 1878.

HR: R.M.C. Neaves, Private, Co. D, 41 TN. Transferred with debilitas May 8, 1864, by sick train from Atlanta Receiving & Distribution Hospital, arrived same day in Confederate hospital, Madison. Death report dated May 22, 1864.

CSR: R.M.C. Neaves, Private, Co. D, 41 TN.

CH: [SC] R M C NEAVES CO D 41 TN INF CSA MAY 21 1864

- ³⁰³ as written.
- ³⁰⁴ artificer: a skilled or artistic worker or craftsman. www.merriam-webster.com
- ³⁰⁵ shoat: a young hog and especially one that has been weaned. www.merriam-webster.com
- ³⁰⁶ (page 313) McClanahan & Dill were the owners of the *Memphis (Tennessee) Daily Appeal* which was published a short time in Atlanta, Georgia.
- ³⁰⁷ Hearnville, Putnam County, Georgia.
- ³⁰⁸ Pound.
- ³⁰⁹ Probably venting.
- ³¹⁰ (page 322) The razing of this first building of Madison's Episcopal Church of the Advent occurred after December 22, 1939, when, in the minutes of the City Council of Madison, the monthly treasurer's report listed the Council's purchase of the church and land for \$150, and May 10, 1940, when an article in the *Madisonian* included, "where the Episcopal Church formerly stood." The city's treasurer's report for January 1940 included income of \$60 for the church building, for which the city had approved a motion on December 22, 1939, to receive bids and "awarding same to highest and best bidder for cash."
- ³¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1921; Church historian Richard Simpson, 2014; The church is now known as the Episcopal Church of the Advent.
- ³¹² (page 322) This famous event, the theft of the locomotive The General by Andrews' Raiders on April 12, 1862, is well reported at <http://www.greatlocomotivechase.com/index2.html>. Madison prison records document that leaders James J. Andrews and William Campbell and their 20 compatriots were incarcerated in Madison on May 3, 1862, and released on May 5 for transfer to Chattanooga, Tennessee; "List of Arrivals and Departures at the Military Prison."
- ³¹³ (page 322) The prison's May 6, 1862, list of departures was of "twenty-two political prisoners from East Tennessee," who were immediately enlisted into Confederate service in Madison by recruiter Lt. Julius M. Rhett of the 1st South Carolina Artillery. Some, if not all, were assigned to Company A of that regiment. "List of Arrivals and Departures at the Military Prison"; Julius M. Rhett Civil War Service Record and those of Lafayette Coyle, James A. Cox, George Collier, and John Bray.
- ³¹⁴ Howes, *Capt. Levi Crowell*; "List of Arrivals and Departures at the Military Prison."
- ³¹⁵ Ibid.; U.S. Census, Redman, Tama County, Iowa (1860); Simon F. Eccles Civil War Service Record; Chapman, *History of Tama County, Iowa*.
- ³¹⁶ Howes, *Capt. Levi Crowell*.
- ³¹⁷ (page 323) Andersonville Cemetery records document 11 re-interments from Madison including Eccles and ten others buried alongside. This occurred between August 1865 and late 1866, per Christopher Barr, Park Guide at the Andersonville National Historic Site. The "List of Arrivals and Departures at the Military Prison" documents 14 deaths at the prison in Madison, and the United States Quartermaster General's Office *Roll of Honor* documents approximately 16.
- ³¹⁸ Railroad cars.
- ³¹⁹ (page 323) The track is now that of the CSX Rail Road.
- ³²⁰ United States Department of Veterans Affairs. "History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers."
- ³²¹ There is only the one track, that of the Georgia Rail Road, in the diagram. In 1888 a second track was laid parallel to the first in Madison, which eventually ran from Macon to Athens. Storey, "Georgia's Railroad History and Heritage."
- ³²² Ware, "Ladies Memorial Association, Madison, Georgia"; Morgan County Confederate Survivors Association minutes, p. 79.
- ³²³ *Madison (Georgia) Home Journal*, April 27, 1878.
- ³²⁴ Morgan County Confederate Survivors Association minutes, pp. 77, 79.
- ³²⁵ *Madison (Georgia) Madisonian*, various pre- and post-Memorial Day issues.
- ³²⁶ Ibid., April 24, 1880.
- ³²⁷ Morgan County Confederate Survivors Association minutes, p. 85. *Madison (Georgia) Madisonian*, April 18, 1884, April 29, 1898, April 27, 1900, April 25, 1901; Ware, "Ladies Memorial Association, Madison, Georgia."
- ³²⁸ *Madison (Georgia) Madisonian*, May 31, 1879, June 21, 1879.
- ³²⁹ Ibid., July 19, 1879.
- ³³⁰ (page 325) The Leroy Wilson estate sale is detailed in Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Bk P, pp. 629-30, and includes a plat [Fig. 32] drawn by Surveyor Cyrus B. Barrow. The estate also included the land surrounding the three sides of the ridge, including Wilson's tan yard to the northeast.
- ³³¹ Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Bk PP, p. 32; Headstone of Eleazer H. Cohen, Madison's New Cemetery.
- ³³² Morgan County Confederate Survivors Association minutes, pp. 81, 83.
- ³³³ (page 326) Georgia Railroad and the "colored Methodist Church of Madison," deed agreement, October 1868. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Bk M, p. 338; Deed Bks P, pp. 629-30, PP, p. 32; Public announcement of upcoming Memorial Day Observance 1957, Anderson, Mrs. Kirby-Smith. Papers.
- ³³⁴ (page 326) Patrick Burney was mayor of Madison at this time. Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Bk PP, pp. 31-32; Morgan County, Georgia, Commissioners Minutes, January 10, 1882.
- ³³⁵ *Madison (Georgia) Madisonian*, various issues.
- ³³⁶ Morgan County Confederate Survivors Association minutes, pp. 89, 91.
- ³³⁷ (page 326) This railroad line was reorganized as the Macon and Northern in 1891 and purchased by the Central of Georgia Railroad in 1895. Storey, "Georgia's Railroad History and Heritage."
- ³³⁸ The author believes that the "unmarked" graves mentioned here are those of veterans who died in Madison after the war, and whose graves were not yet marked as being Confederate veterans.
- ³³⁹ Morgan County Confederate Survivors Association minutes, pp. 106, 108; *Madison (Georgia) Madisonian*, September 22, 1905, and April 29, 1898. Mrs. Mary Chiles Ware mentioned these marble headstones in her 1904 history of Madison's Ladies Memorial Association article, and also said that some were marked "unknown."
- ³⁴⁰ *Madison (Georgia) Madisonian*, May 31, 1936.
- ³⁴¹ Anderson, Mrs. Kirby Smith. Papers. Unknown date.
- ³⁴² (page 327) Furlow's stone reads: † *Edward A Furlow Pvt Co D 3 Regt Ga Inf CSA*. "Goob" Furlow died at the Old [Confederate] Soldiers' Home in Atlanta. His "body was brought to Madison yesterday and met by a detachment of veterans as an honorary escort to the new cemetery," said his obituary in the *Madisonian*, March 25, 1902; Atkinson, "Mortuary List." Thus, Furlow does not appear in the much earlier cemetery diagrams nor in the hospital records. Furlow was 72 years old when he died and had been assistant postmaster in Madison for many years. He was a soldier in the Madison Home Guards, 3rd Georgia Regiment.
- ³⁴³ "Memorial Day Program...April 28th, 1957," Anderson, Mrs. Kirby-Smith. Papers; For the hospital attendant's 1957 headstone to have had an inscription, enough of his 1892 marker or the memory of that marker would have to have survived.

- ³⁴⁴ (page 327) The dead were also from May Hospital. Turnbull Hospital was not part of the Army of Tennessee Medical Department, but a private home. Regarding the November 18 raid's not molesting the hospitals, there were no Confederate hospitals in Madison at that time. The gentleman who wrote the narrative for the marker in 1956 is deceased and his papers were not located by the author.
- ³⁴⁵ (page 327) Fears, personal interview by the author July 2005; The courthouse underwent another, more extensive renovation in 2004-2006; Georgia Sons of Confederate Veterans, *Warhorse*.
- ³⁴⁶ Brooke, Ted O., personal interview by the author July 2005.
- ³⁴⁷ Fears, "Multiple Order for Monument Inscriptions."
- ³⁴⁸ While the 1970s researchers of the diagrams used "east" and "west" for the locations of the two groups of graves, here "south" and "north" are used to maintain consistency throughout this book in the descriptions of the two cemeteries.
- ³⁴⁹ This pre-computer, pre-internet research was conducted by the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the mid 1970s and published in *The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Quarterly* Fall 1975 in their quest for further information.
- ³⁵⁰ U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Alabama (1860).
- ³⁵¹ Probably a typo – should be "H."
- ³⁵² Henderson, *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia*.
- ³⁵³ Banks, *J.D. Barnard headstone*.
- ³⁵⁴ *Madison City Cemeteries*. 1966 aerial photo.
- ³⁵⁵ Reel 3, Item B. Name of document per Wallace State Community College microfilm.
- ³⁵⁶ Phillips' Legion.
- ³⁵⁷ Reel 3, Item E. Name of document per Wallace State Community College microfilm.
- ³⁵⁸ (page 353) Probably G.A. Sharbrough.
- ³⁵⁹ Possibly Eczema capitas.
- ³⁶⁰ 32+58 Alabama.
- ³⁶¹ or Harry.
- ³⁶² "Rowan's" is probably a clerical error and should be Rivers' Battery of Arkansas, per Sgt. Isaac Flowers' Civil War Service Record.
- ³⁶³ Engineer.
- ³⁶⁴ (page 359) Listed as John Jennings elsewhere herein.
- ³⁶⁵ (page 359) McAnear in Compiled Service Record.
- ³⁶⁶ (page 362) Probably A. Couey as elsewhere herein.
- ³⁶⁷ (page 362) Probably J.M. Chandler.
- ³⁶⁸ Senior.
- ³⁶⁹ (page 364) Possibly Vason.
- ³⁷⁰ (page 364) Probably Stewart's escort. .
- ³⁷¹ (page 364) Charles T. Furrow Civil War Service Record.
- ³⁷² (page 364) Possibly Conway.
- ³⁷³ (page 365) or Carry.
- ³⁷⁴ (page 365) Probably Sylvester McGee.
- ³⁷⁵ Unknown abbreviation.
- ³⁷⁶ This name is possibly crossed out.
- ³⁷⁷ (page 369) Probably W.B. Eidson.
- ³⁷⁸ Reel 11, Item A. Name of document per Wallace State Community College microfilm.
- ³⁷⁹ (page 371) This is probably Patrick R. Fitzpatrick.
- ³⁸⁰ "Hospital Steward," per his other entries in this book. "P" probably stands for "Post."
- ³⁸¹ (page 372) Probably W.R. Griswell.
- ³⁸² (page 372) S.P. Connor.
- ³⁸³ (page 376) Probably B.L. Barnes in June 20, 1864 report, Asylum Hospital.
- ³⁸⁴ (page 376) Probably Raley.
- ³⁸⁵ Probably same as A. Void, A. Avidg, et al.
- ³⁸⁶ (page 377) Possibly David Heisler per his Civil War Service Record.
- ³⁸⁷ Reel 7. Name of document per Wallace State Community College microfilm.
- ³⁸⁸ (page 381) J.H. Salmon.
- ³⁸⁹ The T.E. Stephens Civil War Service Record is combined with that of Frank Stephens.
- ³⁹⁰ (page 382) S.G. McLaughlin.
- ³⁹¹ (page 382) Probably Martin Graney, per elsewhere herein.
- ³⁹² See note #197.
- ³⁹³ (page 383) Possibly J. Roudy.
- ³⁹⁴ (page 383) Probably W.B. Paul.
- ³⁹⁵ See note #197.
- ³⁹⁶ One of a long column of dittos under the word "Corp." More likely "Private."
- ³⁹⁷ One of three dittos under the word "Lt." More likely "Private."
- ³⁹⁸ (page 386) Or Hall.
- ³⁹⁹ These dates as written.
- ⁴⁰⁰ (page 388) Probably J.R. Scott.
- ⁴⁰¹ As written.
- ⁴⁰² (page 390) 26 Georgia in other records herein.
- ⁴⁰³ (page 391) Probable mis-spelling. A similar name in this company is Enneis.
- ⁴⁰⁴ (page 393) James G. Crutcher, Company K, 5 Kentucky, Muster Roll March and April 1864: "In hospital at Madison Ga. Wounded at Chickamauga." Civil War Service Record.
- ⁴⁰⁵ (page 393) This is probably J.O. Barr. OScohar is probably a misunderstanding of his full name - James Oscar Barr.
- ⁴⁰⁶ "March" is partially crossed out.