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PMB

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Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capital St.
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Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your broadcast from the Tippecanoe Battlefield. It was interesting and informative. It also brought back fond memories of the many tours I led for thousands of school children each spring in the late 60's and early 70's. At that time I had just received my Master's Degree in history from Purdue University and I was working as Assistant to the Director/Curator of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.

The Director/Curator then was Alameda McCollough who was a veritable walking textbook of Tippecanoe County history. I don't know if you were fortunate enough to meet her but I hope you were. What an education I received working under her tutelage. Our tours also included Fort Ouiatenon and ended at the Fowler House for a brief overview of Lafayette's early days.

It occurred to me as I watched your program that you might like to know about another fascinating episode in Tippecanoe County history. That is the story of the Confederate prisoners who were brought to Lafayette in 1862. Several of them died and are buried in Greenbush Cemetery. I have spent the past five years researching this incident and I will enclose a brochure telling about the book which was the result of my efforts. I'll also send copies of a couple of clippings from the *Journal & Courier* which tell about the new monument which was dedicated last October and also about the book.

Cordially,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



By Amy Bombassaro/Journal and Courier

TWO WHO KNOW: Tim Morrison (left) of Fayetteville, Tenn., talks Saturday afternoon with [redacted] of Covington before the Greenbush Cemetery Civil War monument dedication ceremony. Morrison has several ancestors named on the memorial and has worked with Immel in researching the soldiers.

Fallen soldiers get nation's overdue respect

By Bob Scott
Journal and Courier

As the bugler played "Taps," some men and women were wiping tears from their eyes.

About 150 people, including Civil War re-enactors, attended Saturday's dedication of a monument to honor Civil War soldiers buried at Greenbush Cemetery.

Thirty-eight Confederate soldiers and 22 Union troops are buried along the Greenbush Street side of the cemetery near the Ninth Street intersection. Every headstone simply says "Unknown." The Confederate troops died in Lafayette as prisoners of war in 1862, while the Union men died in a train collision in 1864.

To Tim Morrison, of Fayetteville, Tenn., the monument and cemetery always will be hallowed ground. Five of his relatives died in Lafayette as members of the Confederate Army.

"People ask why are we here," he said. "We are here to honor them, fulfill our duties as Southerners and to preserve this piece of history."

Morrison thanked the people of Lafayette for treating the Confederate POWs with compassion in 1862. The Southerners had survived a 14-day trip to Lafayette after being captured at Fort Donelson near Nashville.

"These men were ordinary soldiers, just poor dirt farmers from middle Tennessee. They owned no slaves. They just answered the call. When they got off the train in Lafayette, the people here saw they were not the devils they had been made out to be."

No one cares? Not true

For Mickey Walker, the dedication ceremony was justice in action. Walker is the president of the Indiana Coalition to Honor the Civil War Dead, and a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans.

"The dream has come true," he said. "No American veterans should be buried under 'Unknown' when their names are known."

"A man once told me that nobody really cares about people who died over 130 years ago. But this fine turnout makes a liar out of him."

James Turner of Nashville, Tenn., said his great-great-grandfather fought for the South.

"When I saw the Stars and Bars on the fence here, I thought how many people don't really know what it means," he said.

Turner then read a letter from Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson. "We may not understand what they went through, but we will always admire their strength," Thompson wrote.

Re-enactor Leslie Howey of Lafayette said his great-grandfathers fought for the Union. He and his wife give presentations to schoolchildren. He is a charter member and president of the Camp Tippecanoe Civil War Roundtable.

"I can immortalize those men through my teachings and studies of Civil War history to augment what is in our school systems. The history books aren't always accurate; they are convenient."

"There was an inequity here in the past, but it was probably an oversight. There weren't stones, but probably wooden ammo box lids and they rotted away. Some had names on them."

And a poem, too

The monument, which cost \$5,000, lists the names of the men who died in the War of the States, as the Southerners called it. Each man's rank, regiment and state also is listed.

At the top of the monument are the words: "In Memory of Confederate prisoners of war from Camp Tippecanoe who perished in 1862 and Union soldiers killed in the Crane railroad wreck of 1864."

At the bottom of the stone monument was a poignant poem: "Under the sad and the dew, waiting the judgement day, love and tears for the blue, tears and love for the gray."

As the roll call of the dead soldiers began, rain began to fall, and many people fled to their dry cars. They missed a lot. The women and children re-enactors solemnly placed a rose on each headstone as the soldier's name was announced.

Tiny flags representing the Confederacy and Union, flew at each gravesite, and the crack of Civil War replica rifles saluted the fallen patriots. Later, Tennessee soil was placed on Confederate graves.

As the Rev. Joseph Townsend read a closing prayer, the Voyageur Ancient Fife and Drum Corps softly played "Amazing Grace" to the respectful gathering.

Phil Templeton of Fayetteville, Tenn., was one of the men wiping away tears. His great-great-grandfather was Thomas Warren, and he is buried with the other Confederate soldiers.

"This means a whole lot to me," Templeton said. "Everyone thought he was buried in Indianapolis."

"It is a weight off my shoulders."

One more wound had been healed.

Writer tells story of soldiers 'beneath the stones'

COVINGTON — They were Tennessee country boys who joined the army to whup the Yanks but were captured and defeated in their first battle.

En route to prison camp, they weakened, died, and were buried in unmarked graves in Greenbush Cemetery in Lafayette.

[redacted] a Covington historian, has just published a 240-page book about them called [redacted]

It took five years to track down the names and the stories of those Confederates who perished in February and March of 1862.

"It was the hardest, and perhaps the most satisfying thing I've written," said [redacted] the author of five fictions. "I don't think I've ever been so wrapped up in something."

[redacted] lived in Lafayette from 1963-71 and earned a master's degree in history from Purdue. She learned about the row of 28 "UNKNOWN C.S.A." tombstones in 1967 while working at the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.

"The idea (of researching the men) had just been perk-

ing in the back of my mind until five years ago," she said. "I finally decided it was time to do something. It was just ready."

The soldiers were captured after the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Fort Donelson in western Tennessee. They were among almost 800 Confederates held in Lafayette until space could be made for them at Camp Morton in Indianapolis.

"Some were ill before they went into the battle," [redacted] said. "They had measles and other illnesses, and they were exposed to terrible weather; there was a warm spell then the temperature dropped and it was bitter cold."

They may have been buried in a mass grave. Between 1912 and 1924, the 28 "unknown" tombstones were erected.

The names of the 28 were in the historical association archives. [redacted] initially thought that by checking Census and genealogical records, she would write a magazine article about the men and where they came



Kevin Cullen

Been There

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it was a book," she said.

Census records were incomplete, so she traveled to Nashville, Tenn., to examine state Civil War military archives. By reading the memoirs, diaries and letters of Confederates who survived their stay in Lafayette, she learned what the victims experienced.

She also discovered that 40 Confederates, not 28, were buried at Greenbush Cemetery. They were of the 32nd and 41st regiments of the Tennessee infantry.

"I wanted to get to know these soldiers. I wanted to know more than their names," [redacted] said. "I wanted to know what kinds of families they came from, what they did in Tennessee. I wanted to know them as people."

Through agricultural census documents she learned how large their farms were, what crops they raised and how many slaves they

from.

"But the more I began to delve into it, the more I discovered it was more than an article —

owned. She even drove through the home counties of the men, she said, "to get a feel for the lay of the land."

She read old newspapers and talked to descendants, too.

Last month, several history-related organizations unveiled a \$5,000 monument in Greenbush Cemetery that lists the names of the Confederates and those of 22 Union "unknown" soldiers buried beside them who died in an 1864 train wreck.

By chance, that project and Immel's research occurred simultaneously.

She published the book herself and is now taking mail orders.

"I'm not sure I will ever let this (research) go completely, even though the book is finished," she said. "I could write another 100 pages. I'm sure."

(To order, [redacted] send \$24.95, plus \$2.50 for shipping, to Mary Blair Immel, 603 Fourth St., Covington, Ind. 47932-1130.)

Each week reporter Kevin Cullen visits interesting people, places and things outside Greater Lafayette. To share a story idea, call him at (765) 420-5202 or (800) 407-5813 or write him c/o Journal and Courier, 217 N. Sixth St., Lafayette 47901.

Journal & Courier - [redacted]