

In Honor of the Boys in Blue

Presented during Summer Celebration, 2013 by LeRoy Steffans

The Civil War, fought between the North and South, was a brutal war. Many families saw their way of life destroyed, their families separated, and their homes lost. It saw brother and other relatives fighting against each other as they chose which side they would fight for.

The seeds of the Civil War were sown by the United States Constitution, which recognized the existence of Slavery. The Constitution declared that five slaves were equal to three white Americans for the purpose of determining the number of representatives each state could have.

Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, Northern States abolished slavery. Abolitionist groups campaigned against the institution. They started the Underground Railroad in order to help slaves escape from their owners, so they could be free men in the North.

Plantation owners paid big money to get their runaway slaves returned, and slaves were beaten for trying to escape.

On April 12, 1861, Confederate soldiers started the war by firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, Charleston, South Carolina. Many battles followed and many soldiers died.

Some of the battlefields were: The Battle of Bull Run, Wilson Creek (in the divided state of Missouri, ten miles southwest of Springfield), Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Fort Puluski, Oak Grove (Richmond Virginia), Antietam (America's bloodiest day), Stone River, and Vicksburg.

The battle of Vicksburg, where more than 1800 Iowans lost their lives, was a turning point in the war. It started on May 19, 1863, and lasted for a month or longer. There were 4,835 casualties in the battle. The 22nd Iowa Infantry, volunteers in the initial charge at Vicksburg, lost nine out of every ten men.

A total of 76,534 soldiers from Iowa served in the Civil War. 13,169 lost their lives, and 8,500 of them were wounded.

On April 12, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, thereby ending the conflict. Casualties from the North and South together totaled 623,026.

The following chart identifies Civil War veterans buried here in Pleasant View. They fought in many battles, survived the war and came to this area with their families to settle.

Civil War Veterans currently identified in Hartley's Pleasant View Cemetery as of 8-2-13

<u>NAME</u>		BLK.	LOT
<i>Robert Ayers</i>	September 15, 1844---November 9, 1933 Company G 25 th Illinois infantry	GAR D	1
<i>Samuel Boyce Sr.</i>	November 17, 1839---December 5, 1924 Company H 16 th Regular US Army 3 rd Brigade 2 nd Division 14 th Corps	GAR C	7
<i>TB Carpenter</i>	July 20, 1836---February 25, 1927 Company K 20 th Wisconsin Infantry	GAR C	5
<i>Thomas E. Davis</i>	1828-1890	C	10
<i>Christian Dorman</i>	August 21, 1839---September, 1932 Company B 16 th Iowa Infantry	GAR T	4
<i>William Fuller</i>	August 15, 1844---March 29, 1909 Company M 17 th Illinois Cavalry	GAR B	9
<i>Alvin Green</i>	September 20, 1837---March 20, 1926 Company A 51 st Ohio Volunteer Infantry	GAR	
<i>Samuel Grapes</i>	August 6, 1837---December 26, 1891 Company K 21 st Iowa Infantry	GAR E	8
<i>Thomas W. Griffith</i>	April 22, 1841---August 2, 1914 Company B 44 th Indiana Infantry	GAR R	11
<i>Christopher Hopfe</i>	March 14, 1816---November 12, 1899 Company C 8 th Iowa Volunteer Infantry	C	8
<i>John Hopfe</i>	May 22, 1848---January 28, 1901 Company H 2 nd Iowa Infantry	GAR C	8

<i>C.W. Inman</i>	February 10, 1837---1894 Company I 9 th Regular Iowa Infantry Rank of Major	GAR	E	29
<i>Charles J. Jones</i>	August 1, 1843---1929 Company F 2nd Iowa Infantry	GAR	W	14
<i>Eleazer J. Kelley</i>	1847-1922 (Hartley Mayor 1896-1897)		L	5
<i>Franklin Kelley</i>	January 31, 1827---July 22, 1910 Company G 43 rd Wisconsin Infantry Musician	GAR	D	3
<i>David Kroft</i>	May 23, 1833---June 15, 1903 Company E 156 th Illinois Volunteer	GAR	I	3
<i>Archibald McDonald</i>	April 4, 1830---March 27, 1907 Company D 32nds Iowa Infantry	GAR	C	12
<i>Erwin B. Messer</i>	August 24, 1838---November 21, 1916 Company F 37 th Illinois Infantry 156 th Illinois Infantry Colonel Hartley's first Mayor, 1888-89	GAR	R	27
<i>Leonard Miller</i>	1831-1902 Company D 4 th Wisconsin Cavalry Hartley Mayor 1892-1894	GAR	H	4
<i>George Nicodemus</i>	May 28, 1831---September 12, 1900 Company K 15 th Illinois Infantry	GAR	K	2
<i>William Oppelt</i>	Company D 28 th Iowa Infantry	GAR	D	5
<i>Silas Palen</i>	May 26, 1821---August 17, 1901 Company E 80 th New York Infantry	GAR	P	8
<i>William Schadt</i>	June 28, 1843---January 26, 1932 Company I 92 nd Illinois Infantry	GAR	R	9
<i>John M. Smith</i>	July 14, 1822---August 16, 1887 Company A 36 th Wisconsin Infantry	GAR		
<i>John W. Thomas</i>	Company E 142 nd Illinois Infantry	GAR		
<i>John J. Thompson</i>	February 10, 1844---February 2, 1905 Company B 40 th Iowa Infantry		M	5

<i>James S. Webster</i>	December 16, 1848---January 8, 1925 Company B 154 th Illinois Infantry	GAR U	28
<i>Edward D. Williams</i>	July 16, 1831---November 21, 1904 Company F 32 nd Wisconsin Infantry	GAR B	14
<i>R. A. Woodward</i>	1846-1925	B	16
<i>John M. Yoeman</i>	Company D 91st Illinois Infantry Commander of GAR Post	GAR A	11

The Taps Echo

by LeRoy Steffans
(Inspired by a visit to a Civil War cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee)

The sun is shining brightly
Upon the garden where they lay
The boys in blue that died for you
In the hills so far away

The crosses stand in perfect rows
The grass grows on each grave
They lie in wait for Judgment Day
Their sacrifices made

As I stand and look across the field
Where many soldiers lie
The wind is blowing softly
A tear falls from my eye

I hear the bugle clearly
As the sound fades far away
One rises up and sounds the taps
At the ending of each day

LeRoy Steffans' interest in the Civil War veterans buried in Pleasant View Cemetery was the inspiration to organize the Civil War event presented during Summer Celebration of 2013. He had spent much time in the past, searching for and identifying the veteran's gravesites. Prior to the event, Steffans, Kathy Luedke, and Loren Newkirk set out to identify and mark each grave with an American Flag. Pat Strait, who takes care of the cemetery, assisted in answering questions about locations.