FINDING THE SOLDIERS:



Several years ago, I looked into the widow's pension records of my great grandmother Mary Jane Davis Hicks. Mary Jane moved from Sullivan County back to her native Carter County after the death of her husband, Jacob Hicks, a Confederate soldier who served in Company B (Sullivan County Company)of the 4th Tennessee Cavalry (Smith's). In her pension application, two witnesses were on the records, one a brother of Jacob named William C. Hicks, and another named Abe McClellan. Knowing William (my great granduncle) was buried in Glenwood of Bristol, I looked

Mary Jane Davis Hicks into the records of Abe McClellan. Finding he was buried in Morning View Cemetery of Bluff City, I visited there and after several visits I located the grave of Abe McClellan. I quickly found others in the cemetery who served in the same company and regiment. I decided to do brief biographies of the Confederate veterans interred there and eventually convey the information to the public.

My method of locating soldiers was to locate men primarily born between 1825 to 1847 and:

1--Look for the filing of pensions by the located soldier using the Tennessee State Library and Archives Web Site. https://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/tennessee-confederate-pension-applications-soldiers-widows

2—Use Family Search to find the pension claim of the soldier and/or his widow. https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1874474

3—Use Fold3 Web Site for compiled military service records. https://www.fold3.com/

4—Use Find-A-Grave Web Site for burial location: https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cs

5—Use Ancestry.com to search for family history, census reports, death certs, etc.

6---Write a brief biography using the information obtained from internet sources and local history books. My primary sources have been:

"The Adventures of Daniel Ellis, the Union Guide"; written by himself

"History of the 13th Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry" by Scott & Angel

"Home-Growed Rebels" by William D. Taylor

"Scenes from the Bluffs"; a work of the Council of Ministries of Bluff City United Methodist Church in September of 1975 under the leadership of Mrs. Betsy Carrier

"Historic Sullivan; a history of Sullivan County, Tennessee, with brief biographies of the makers of history" by Oliver Taylor

"Morning View Cemetery-Bluff City, Tennessee"; compiled by J. FORREST THOMAS (1977) Updated (2015)

I plan to do periodic revisions of "Confederate Veterans of Morning View Cemetery" as more information becomes available or as corrections are needed. Some headstones, including the Confederate Memorial had to be restored by cleaning. Some are so badly weathered that cleaning cannot restore them. Some are in unmarked graves, determined by death certificates and burial information found in local books.

I hope the information I have found is helpful for those searching for their Confederate ancestor.

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