**WAR VETERANS**

The last event of the century in Van Buren was the dedication on November 10, 1899, of the large Confederate Memorial in Fairview Cemetery. This beautiful stone was later moved to the Courthouse lawn where it stands today at the entrance of the northwest side.



Dedicated to the memory of Confederate soldiers buried there and lost their lives in battles at Elk Horn, Prairie Grove, and Oak Hill. It is made of Italian Marble, is 21 feet high and surmounted by a figure of a Confederate soldier. Inscription: 1899. 1861 C.S.A. 1865. Confederate soldiers present at the dedication we're S. M. Dyer from Dyer and J. T. Willis.

***[Editor's note: this image has been added to the original document.]***

| **CIVIL WAR VETERANS** | |
| --- | --- |
| Adkins, Christopher  Chastain, J. Shelton  Chitwood, Joseph  Dailey, William  Davidson, T. J.  Dyer, Stephen M.  Eichelbarger, Jeremiah  Goodno, William S.  Griffin, Ira H.  Hammonds, John  Jones, John C.  Miller, John W.  Moss, John William  O'Bar, John  Revis, Warren E.  Rogers, G. W.  Sleeper, Captain Leander  Wagner, M. H.  Wallace, xxx  Walters, George W.  Wells, Jacob F.  Wells, Andrew J. | Co. E, 42 Missouri Infantry  Co. G, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry l863-1865  Co. G, Regiment 22, Arkansas Infantry 1862-1865  Co. F, 28th Regiment of Illinois, Vol Inf. 1864-1865  Co. K, 83rd Regiment of PA, Vol. Inf. 1865-1866  Co. L, 2nd Regiment Arkansas Cavalry l863-1865  12th Kentucky Infantry 1863-1865  Co. E, 1st Regiment Arkansas Inf. 1863-1865  Co. G, 2nd Arkansas Regiment |

**WORLD WAR I**

Back in 1917 we would hear rumors from a far away place over scan of fighting, and suddenly one morning we awoke to find that the United States had declared war on Germany. Patriotic sons began to volunteer for oversea duty and some of our boys volunteered. Among those first ones were:

Jewel Chastain

Richard Hurd

Fred Hurd

Willie Kennedy

Tom Davidson

These were rushed to the battle front in a very short time, saw fighting on the front lines but not a boy was lost in this war from Dyer. Others who saw service were:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| William McNeely  Oliver Thomas  Monroe Nelson  Harold Reavis  Bryan McDuffie | Fred Davidson  Sam Stephens  Node Renfroe  William Flemings | Tom Morse  Sam Koiser  Lee Morse  Carl Manuel | Robert Hankins  Oral Rhodes  Ralph Wells  Claude Peevy |

Hurd, Richard 42nd Division, Co. B

Hurd, Fred PFC Go. L, 23rd Infantry

(The above were brothers)

Manuel, Carl Arkansas S2, United States Navy

Morse, William Lee Cop. 379 Bakey Co.

Stephens, Samuel Andrew Pvt. 43rd Co. 162 Depot Brig.

| **WORLD WAR II** | |
| --- | --- |
| Blevins, Willard  Burgett, xxx  Cottrell, Clay  Cottrell, James Lee  Cottrell, Monroe  Cottrell, Olay  Cupp, Odis  Darr, John R.  Darr, William  Hayes, Fred  Hurd, Hays  Hurd, Mitch | James, Rome  Jean, Roy  Lakey, Bud  Lakey, Oscar  Morse, Leslie  Moss, Charles G.  Moss, Robert C.  Peevy, John B.  Swafford, Idus  Swafford, Wiley J.  Weaver, R. G.  Wright, Truman |

Again, I know this is not all the names that should be recorded here. I would appreciate any names with rank and etc, for we would like to have a plaque sometime. Just noticed how many brothers are listed above: Roe ***[Monroe?]*** and Clay Cottrell; James Lee and Lay ***[Olay?]*** Cottrell; Oscar and Bud Lakey; Mitch and Hays Hurd (and they are the nephews of the two brothers Richard and Fred Hurd who were in World War I); Charles and Robert Moss. We were not so lucky in this war as some of our boys were slain fighting for our freedom.

**KOREAN WAR**

James Stephens Jerry McAdoo

Tom Frank Kincy James Morse

James B. McDuffie Jesse V. Weese

**VETERANS**

**WORLD WAR I VETERAN IS BURIED AT DYER**

Richard Hurd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Hurd of Dyer died Thursday in a government hospital at Dawson Springs, Kentucky, and was buried in Dyer Cemetery Sunday P.M. Reverend Hughes of Alma, Baptist minister, conducted the funeral service. The body arrived in Dyer last Saturday afternoon. Young Hurd was a World War I Veteran with a distinguished War record. He was 35 and unmarried.

Marine Sgt. Jesse V. Weese, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Weese of Dyer, aboard the heavy cruiser USS Helena was among the 12,000 men who participated in the largest and most extensive training exercise since World War II.

PFC James W. Stephens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Truman Stephens of Dyer, recently left Korea with the 24th Infantry Division, which has been assigned to Hakata, Japan. Stephen was assigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment, entered the Army in June, 1953, and arrived overseas the following December.

Pvt. Wiley J. Swafford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Swafford of Dyer, died January 7, of wounds suffered in France one day earlier. He died four days before his 19th birthday. He entered the service April 17, 1944, and had been overseas one month. They have another son, Pvt. First Class Idus B. Swafford, who is stationed at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

**WRITTEN BY BRENDA (ISAAC) NAPOLITANO**

Dyer, Arkansas, USA

Dedicated to my husband Richard F. Napolitano and all our boys in Vietnam

Have you ever stopped to think

Of so many boys dying in just a wink,

Of all the young blood that has been shed

They just follow where they are led

So many young and little boys

Have to go to war and be decoys,

They have to die in a strange place

With such a scared look on their face.

You may have prayed or cried

For one of those boys who have died,

So bravely they stood, yet almost crying

While all around them buddies were dying.

They are so young to die this way

But I am sure they will see the day

When God will open up His great door

And shelter them forever more.

**OBITUARIES**

**Oscar Lakey**, a 47 year old man of Dyer, died at Crawford County Hospital at 11:05 Monday about 32 hours after a tractor he was driving overturned and pinned him under. He is the son the late Mr. Richard Lakey and Mrs. Gertrude Lakey of the home. He was a veteran of World War II. Besides his wife, Eunie, survivors are: two sons, Richard and Donald Lakey; one daughter, Jacqueline Lakey; his mother Mrs. Gertie Lakey; and six brothers: L. M. Lakey, Richard Lakey, Ben Lakey, Thomas Lakey, John Lakey, and Edgar Lakey, all of Dyer. A military service by Camp Chaffee servicemen will be at the Dyer Cemetery.

**Jewel D. Chastain** died at Veterans Hospital in North Little Rock, Arkansas, following a short illness. The service will be held in Dyer at 01:30 PM Thursday at the Church of Christ with John Wilkerson officiating. Burial will be in National Cemetery at Fort Smith, Arkansas, with military service.

**William Lee Morse**, 68 years old of Dyer, died in Veterans Hospital at Fayetteville, Arkansas, on Sunday, March 4, after a long illness. He was a retired farmer and veteran of World War I. Survivors are two sons: Richard Morse of Dyer, and James E Morse of Compton, California, and Otis Mose of Mulberry, Arkansas; three sisters: Lillie Morse Kenny of Alma, Arkansas; Daisy Morse Weese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Flora Morse Mahurin of Arkansas. Services were held at 02:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Dyer Baptist Church with Pastor Jewel Morse and Amon Edwards officiating. Burial was in the Dyer Cemetery.

**Byron McDuffie**, 71 years old, Route 2, Alma, Arkansas, died Tuesday, September 3, 1963, at a Fayetteville, Arkansas, hospital. He was a retired furniture company employee and a veteran of World War I and a member of the Dyer Methodist Church. He had been a resident of Alma for 38 years. Survivors are his wife Connie McDuffie; two sons, James McDuffie of Santa Rosa, California, and Johnnie McDuffie of Salinas, California. One daughter: Mrs Hugh Spencer of Alma, Arkansas. A brother: Curtis McDuffie of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Six grandchildren. Service at 01:00 o'clock Thursday at the Dyer Methodist Church with Lester Nye and Raymond Brooks officiating. Burial at the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

**Oral Rhodes**, 71 of Dyer, died Saturday at Van Buren Nursing Home, Van Buren, Arkansas. He was a retired farmer and a veteran of World War I and a member of the Dyer Church of Christ. Survivors are his wife, Elizabeth Rhodes. A daughter, Mrs Douglas Rhodes Ferrari of Topeka, Kansas. A brother, Elisha Rhodes of Mountainburg, Arkansas. And a sister, Nettie Rhodes Taylor of Tulsa, Oklahoma. And two grandchildren. Services were held January 3, 1966, at the Dyer Church of Christ with Tilmann Pope officiating. Burial in Dyer Cemetery.

**Oliver Thomas**, a lifelong resident of Dyer, Arkansas, died suddenly at home at 01:30 AM Monday morning, November 11, 1957. He was age 63, a member of the Church of Christ. He was a retired farmer and a veteran of World War I. Besides his wife Lucy Thomas of the home, he leaves two daughters: Mrs. Johnny Thomas Selig, Jr, of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas; and Mrs. John Paul Thomas Kelly of Alma, Arkansas. Four half-sisters, two half-brothers, and three grandchildren. Services were held at 01:30 PM Wednesday at the Church of Christ in Dyer. Mr. Ward Hoagland preached the service. Buried in the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, with full military honors.

**Tom Davidson**, age 51, formerly of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, died about 08:00 AM Sunday at a hospital in San Francisco, California. He was born at Dyer, Arkansas, March 31, 1900. He had lived a number of years at Fort Smith, Arkansas, before moving to San Francisco, California, about 16 years ago. Survivors are his mother, Sally Beth Davidson of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Two brothers: J. M. Davidson and J. G. Davidson, both of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Burial will be in Oakland, California. He was a World War I veteran.

**Fred Hurd** funeral was held 02:30 PM Friday at the Dyer Baptist Church with Rev. Jewel Morse officiating. Burial was in the Dyer Cemetery. Mr Hurd, a 58 year old farmer, was found dead under his tractor Wednesday, October 14, about 01:30 PM on Claud Meador's farm two miles southeast of Dyer. Death was accidental. Survivors include one sister: Mrs. Bertie Hurd Wagner of Dyer, Arkansas. One foster sister: Abbie Greenwood.

**NEWS TIDBITS**

**Mrs. Bonnie Rhodes** was made happy when her daughter and son-in-law gave her a pitcher formerly owned by her mother, the late Mrs. J. A. Bourland. The heirloom was sold at public auction at the Bourland home years ago. It was traced to the area where sold and recalled selling it to Mrs. Bud Kinsey at Alma. Mrs. Kinsey favored Mrs. Winborn because she was a granddaughter of the original owner.

**Brenda Kay Moore** was not to sure of this old world when she looked over things at the age of 5 months in September when her picture was made. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny R. and Sharon K. Moore. She weighed 2 pounds at birth but was big enough to capture the hearts of four grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moore of Dyer; and Mr. and Mrs. Iphas Banhart of Mulberry, Arkansas.

**March 1967**: Miss Donna Coleman, 1967 Dyer Heart Fund Princess, was crowned by last year's winner at a ceremony last week at Dyer. Donna won over 5 other contestants from Dyer. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Coleman. Mrs. Loy Cottrell headed the Dyer drive and $152.55 was raised for the Heart Fund.

**Miss June Kennedy** was selected Valedictorian of her senior class of Alma High School. There are 33 members in the Senior class. June has been an outstanding leader during her High School years.

**Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davis** celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary on Sunday at their home in Dyer.

Wedding vows were exchanged by **Miss Jonnie Sue Bobbitt** and Troy Wayne Koizer in a double ring ceremony, April 20th, in the New Bethel Assembly of God Church in Dyer,

**March 1967**: Debra Jan Cottrell, whose engagement to Orville Earle Garrett, Jr, is announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Loy Cottrell of Alma, formerly of Dyer. Miss Cottrell is a graduate of Alma High School and is employed at Alma. The prospective bridegroom, also a graduate of Alma High School, is attending Westark Junior College and is employed in Fort Smith. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Earle Garrett, Sr, of Clarksville.

**1968**: Miss Gayla Ann Cottrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Cottrell of Dyer, became the bride of Ronnie Millsap, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Millsap of Pleasant View, Friday evening at the Dyer Baptist Church.

**Sgt. and Mrs. Robert Hankins** and daughter visited Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Hankins Saturday and Sunday. Robert is stationed at the airbase at Jacksonville, Arkansas.

**Mr and Mrs. Willard Blevins** of Dyer, announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Doris, to Lloyd N. Landers, Jr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd N. Landers, Sr, of Russellville. Miss Blevins is a graduate of Alma High School and presently attending Arkansas Polytechnic College where she is a Junior, majoring in Physical Education. Mr. Landers is a graduate of Russellville High School and is a Senior Math Major at Arkansas Polytechnic College. A June 1 wedding is planned in the Dyer Baptist Church.

**Carl W. Alla**, USN, son of Clinton M. Alla of Route 2, Van Buren, Arkansas, and husband of the former Miss Bobbie Isaac of Dyer, was graduated from the ships Career Information School while serving aboard the Command ship the USS Northampton.

***Filename: LookingBackAtDyer 1838-1976 Book 01, 148-153 ~ war veterans, obits, news***