



Volume 23, No. 3

*The Veteran*

January – March 2010

## Army of Georgia Veterans' Medal

By Scott Cross

While cataloging the Civil War photograph collection at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in 1998, I first encountered images of Union soldiers wearing an odd medal that I had never seen before. These soldiers were wearing on the right or left chest an eagle shaped pin with a suspended disk. The medal resembled no known corps badge or any authorized award. At the time I assumed that they were some type of ornate identification disk popularly sold by sutlers or available through newspaper advertisements. The following year, I began working as the archivist at the Oshkosh Public Museum and once again came across images of soldiers wearing this strange badge.

While examining the original 1920 accession record of the photographs, I noted a listing for an "Eagle Pin" in the inventory. A physical search for the "Eagle Pin" revealed it to be the top portion of a G.A.R. Membership Badge. However, sitting next to it in the same storage container was an example of the two-piece pin mentioned in the previous paragraph.

The medal itself consists of an American eagle made of stamped brass with applied silver-wash and a wire hook and traces of a soldered pin on the back. It measures 1-5/8 inches from wing tip to wing tip. It measures 7/8 inches high. A brass wire ring runs through a punched hole between the eagle's talons and suspends a metal disk. The disk is cast of a lightweight nonferrous metal measuring 1-1/4 inches in diameter. It is 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch thick. The overall height of the entire medal is 2-1/4 inches. The obverse of the disk portrays a bust image of William T. Sherman and the words, 'MAJ. GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,' surrounded by a wreath. The reverse has a 14<sup>th</sup> Corps Acorn at upper left, 20<sup>th</sup> Corps Star at upper right, 15<sup>th</sup> Corps Cartridge Box on Lozenge in center and a 17<sup>th</sup> Corps Arrow below. All of the corps represented on the reverse of this medal constituted Sherman's Army of Georgia, 1864-1865.

Exactly who manufactured these medals, which authorized them (if anyone), and where and when they were distributed or purchased remains a mystery.



*(continued on Page 27)*

## The President's Message

Dear Members:

Many of us have suffered through a long, hard winter. The good news is that Mansfield is less than two months away. I'm looking forward to the tulips and daffodils in bloom at the Civil War Show.

I hope than many of you will be able to attend our annual meeting on Saturday evening. George Finlayson has planned a lovely banquet and John Mullay will present a great program on "First Defenders."

Bring any interesting, unique, or puzzling item to the show or meeting for us to admire, question or identify. I hope you've all had a good year collecting Civil War memorabilia.

Dan M. Mitchell, President

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## 24<sup>th</sup> CWVHA National Encampment & Banquet

The 24<sup>th</sup> CWVHA National Encampment will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Comfort Inn, Saturday, May 1, 2010. A cash bar will open at 6:00pm and a buffet dinner at 6:30. There will be a choice of 3 entrée's and side dishes. Price is \$ 18.00 per person. Please mail checks to: **George Finlayson, 98 Parkwood Blvd., Mansfield, OH 44906. (419) 526-3327**

## Sultana Reunion at Chattanooga, TN

The Sultana Association reunion will be April 23-24 at Chattanooga, TN. CWVHA member Richard Troup will speak Friday night and Gene Salecker, Sultana book author, will talk on Sultana survivors' reunions, Saturday. Artifacts will be displayed. Bus tours of Chickamauga and Chattanooga Battlefields will be \$10. The banquet is \$15. No Sultana ancestor is required to attend. The Reunion is at the Marriott, 2340 Center St. For reservations, call (423) 468-7700 and mention the Sultana Assoc. Send a check for the meal and/or tour to: Norman Shaw, PO Box 30372, Knoxville, TN 37930. In attendance will be Greta Green, whose father survived the disaster, 145 years ago.

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## The Editor's Message by George G. Kane

At last year's banquet, someone volunteered to create and have manufactured, the ribbons for the CWVHA 24<sup>th</sup> National Encampment. Unfortunately, no one can remember who that was. If it was you, could you please contact one of the officers listed in the block to the left.

The *Olympia* is in trouble. Dewey's flagship, one of only three "protective cruisers" left in the world, may be heading to the scrap heap. Rumors are that the museum that currently owns this ship, have decided to have the Navy tow the ship out to sea and scuttle it. A large endowment has dwindled thanks to embezzlement and mismanagement of the board that oversees the museum and the ship. Go to [www.Fotco.org](http://www.Fotco.org) for additional information.

I hope to see many of you at the Richmond County Fairground on the first weekend of May for the Ohio Civil War show.

George

## The Veteran

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Articles may be submitted either in typewritten form or electronically (e-mail or disk) MSWord, or Excel is the preferred software choices. All materials will be returned. If you have questions, please call George Kane at (413) 592-2166. 123 Springfield St., Chicopee, MA 01013-2627.

An e-mail address is listed above.

Continued from front page....

It is possible that some enterprising sutler or manufacturer took advantage of the large concentration of Sherman's troops in Washington, DC during the Grand Review and was hawking them in the camps. The quality of these materials suggests that they were very cheaply made.

Tom McCrory has identified a second variety of this medal. Tom's medal is both similar and different. He has found more than one copy of this variety. The Eagle hanger on both varieties is identical in detail, but Tom's variety does not have the silver-wash finish. It retains its reddish-brown natural color. Both have the overlapped connecting ringlet. The kind of ringlet you would find on a key chain.



The pendants have similar content on both sides, but even minor scrutiny can reveal the differences in detail. The first variety has a wreath surrounding Sherman's name and likeness. The second does not. In the first variety, Sherman appears to be looking to his left in a blank stare. The 2<sup>nd</sup> variety has Sherman staring to the front of the pendant with a definite scowl. In this variety, Sherman appears almost cartoon-ish, while the first variety appears truer to life. The reverse has the same objects, but in different locations and sizes. On the first variety, the arrow is larger and located at the bottom of this side. The acorn and the star are larger on the first variety and shown at the top of this side. The cartridge box is located in the center of both varieties, but the size of the box on the first variety is considerably larger. You might notice that the attaching pin is broken off on both varieties. It appears that both varieties were cheaply made.



A similar souvenir dating from the end of the civil war is the photo on the left. It measures 2 3/8" by 4". The same corps badges are arranged around a left facing portrait of General Sherman. At the bottom is printed, "Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1862, by Geo. Holbrook, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Columbia." I'm not sure what the statement has to do with the photo. It's probably more to scare off any potential counterfeiters, then have any basis in law. *(continued on page 28)*

Photos on this page courtesy of  
Tom McCrory.

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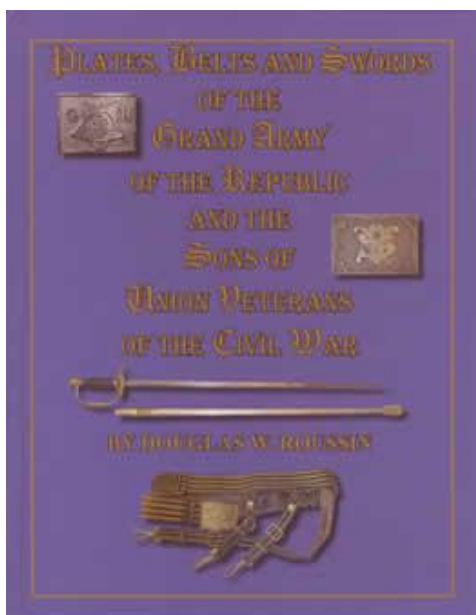
Continued from previous page ...

Photos of soldiers, wearing this souvenir medal are not rare or common. Below are two examples of *Carte-de-visite* photos with soldiers wearing the Army of Georgia Veteran's Medal.

This page will be updated soon.

## Grand Army Regalia Book By Noel Preston

Doug Roussin's new hard cover 148-page book, "Plates, Belts and Swords of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" should be in the reference library of every G.A.R. and SV collector, as it covers many examples of these organization's belts, plates and swords. Both the beginner and advanced collector will benefit from over 150 well-documented black and white photographs, which compare many varieties of these veteran regalia, some of which are seldom found or seen.

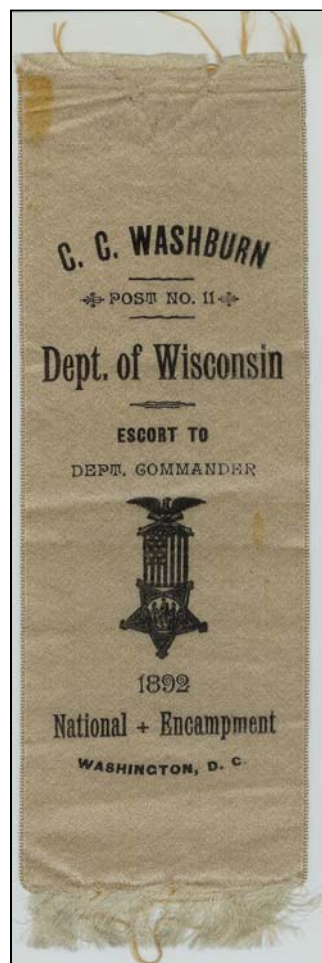


Doug, a member of the CWVHA, has attempted to devise and standardize a numbering system to identify each variety of the well-documented memorabilia. He has also assigned to each piece a "very common" to "exceptionally rare" scale from 1 to 5 plus a plate monogram variation scale. Also included is information on modern reproduction G.A.R. and SV plates, plus excerpts from various equipment catalogs of the late 1800's showing available items and prices. Additionally, there are photographs of veterans wearing the equipment and lists of dealers and makers of the G.A.R. and SV swords.

This page will be updated soon.

### 1892 GAR Escort Ribbon by Tom McCrory

I've seen escort ribbons for National CIC's, but not for a Dept. Commander. This ribbon is from C. C. Washburn Post No. 11 of Madison who escorted Wisconsin Dept. Commander Chauncey B. Welton at the Washington, D.C. National Encampment.



# A 2-Year Grand Army National Encampment Railroad Ticket

By George G. Kane

The National Encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic were held across the country. From Boston to San Francisco and Minneapolis to New Orleans, delegates headed to the annual event. The most prevalent mode of transportation to these conventions was by railroad. Each year, railroads tried to entice the Grand Army to use their lines to carry the veterans across the country. The National GAR Office negotiated with all the major railroads seeking the cheapest price, usually based on the mile. One year, "A Penny a Mile" was the slogan. The delegates, members and their families received a specially designed ticket for this occasion. Each year the ticket would note the destination as the Grand Army National Encampment. In 1885 and 1886, the G.A.R. negotiated a two-year agreement. The ticket folder below is a product of that agreement. Two main tickets were included as well as smaller tickets for members arriving or departing off the main railroad lines. Only the 1886 San Francisco ticket was used by this member / delegate. The 1885 Portland, Maine ticket is still in the folder.



Directly above is the 1885 Ticket, which is unsigned by the member / delegate or witness. In the center is the folder cover. The complete folder is shown at upper right, while a page of minor tickets is shown at the lower right.

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# Grand Army Pipe

By George G. Kane

Just when you think you've seen everything that can have G.A.R. symbols attached to it, along comes something different. The pipe illustrated below was recently presented in an e-Bay auction.



The vintage clay pipe with Grand Army of the Republic symbols and slogans on all four sides of the bowl is marked on the stem "Smoke Talk Pipe" and "Germany". The origin of the clay pipe is not known. The first mention of these pipes was circa 1723. There are many varieties of clay pipes with the most famous being the Meerschaum pipe made famous by Sherlock Holmes. The Tobacco plant is a native to North and South America. Europeans discovered the tobacco plant after landing in the New World in the sixteenth century, where Native Americans introduced these explorers to "smoking" tobacco. From there, the practice of smoking tobacco spread around the world. Tobacco became so popular that it was sometimes used as currency. In 1632, the Massachusetts Bay Colony outlawed the practice of smoking in public. During the Revolutionary War, tobacco helped finance the revolution by serving as collateral for loans the Americans borrowed from France. Cigarettes did not appear in the West until after the Crimean War where Turkish and Russian soldiers and sailors introduced Europeans to them. With the onset of the American Civil War, clay pipes were still the most common way to smoke tobacco. The clay pipes stayed popular until the turn of the century when cigarette smoking became more acceptable.



The front and back of the bowl has more GAR symbols. The lip of the pipe has "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty" in raised print. One side has the GAR star, while the other side has "G.A.R. / Post No. / 61 – 65." Space is left free so that the post number can be painted or etched into the pipe.

## Dueling In The Civil War

By Tom Brooks

“All told in the eight decades between 1780 and 1860, probably more United States Army and Navy officers were killed and wounded on private fields of honor than fell on battlefields and ships’ decks in the service of their country.” So wrote Aaron Norman in his article “The Death of Gentlemen” as published in the spring 1961 issue of *The American Gun*. During the Civil War Northerners eschewed the practice of dueling, Southern gentlemen did not.

In July 1861, shortly after the battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas or 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run if you will, Captain Alexander White shot and mortally wounded Captain George McCausland in a duel. White was in command of the Tiger Rifles, Co. B of Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat’s 1<sup>st</sup> Special Louisiana Battalion. McCausland was a Volunteer Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier General Nathan George Evans. McCausland made some disparaging remarks about the Louisianans. White took offence.

Before enlisting at New Orleans on April 25, 1861, it is said that Alexander White was a fugitive from a murder charge in Kentucky. Be that as it may, White went on to be wounded at Gaines Mill, Virginia on June 27, 1862, and on Culp’s Hill at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863.

Born in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana in 1837, George McCausland had originally enlisted as a Private in Co. “F”, 4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry at Camp Moore, Louisiana on May 25, 1861. In June 1861 he received furlough from the 4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana to join Brigadier General Evans in Virginia as a Volunteer Aide-de-Camp. After his demise, his body was returned to Louisiana where it was interred in the McCausland family cemetery in West Feliciana Parish. Of his death it is said that he received a rifle shot through both hips and died in great agony.

In October 1861 Alabama-born Henry Cousins Chambers, who was running for a seat from Mississippi in the First Regular Confederate Congress, happened upon a way to ensure his election. He challenged his opponent, Maryland-born William A. Lake to a duel with rifles at fifty paces. Chambers then proceeded to shoot Lake dead. Needless to say, when Chambers sought re-election in 1863, he was a shoe-in. Chambers died in 1871 at age 48.

In the winter of 1861-62, near Manassas, Virginian Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) Elbert Bland, Co. “H”, 7<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry, fought a duel with Major Emmett Seibels of the same regiment. The *cause celebre* was a chess game. Though shots were fired, both parties missed. Bland went on to be killed in action at Chickamauga. He is buried in Willowbrook Cemetery, Edgefield, South Carolina. Seibels later served as a Volunteer Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier General Mathew Calbraith Butler. He died in Montgomery, Alabama in 1899.

On April 22, 1863 at Suffolk, Virginia, Major (later Lt. Col.) Alfred Horatio Belo of the 55<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry fought Capt. John Cussons, Jr. in a duel. Although originally a Private in Co. “A”, 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry by the time of the due, the English born Cussons was a Volunteer Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier General Evander M. Law. With Major Belo being absent, and the Federals occupying Fort Huger, Capt. Cussons took it upon himself to lead the 55<sup>th</sup> North Carolina in an attack to expel them, an activity to which Major Belo took umbrage. During the duel, Capt. Cussons missed being shot in the head by a matter of inches, and Major Belo took a slug in the shoulder.

At Gettysburg, Alfred Horatio Belo was wounded in the leg and in the lung. He was wounded again at Cold Harbor. After the war he lived in Asheville, NC. He died in 1901 and is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA. In 1864 John Cussons, Jr. married Mrs. Sue Allen of Glen Allen, Virginia, where he resided after the war. He died in 1912 and is also buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

(Continued on next page – 33)

Continued from previous page – 32 ... Dueling in the Civil War.

On the way to Gettysburg in 1863, Capt. George V. Moody of the Madison Light Artillery from Louisiana challenged Capt. Pichegru Woolfolk, Jr. of the Ashland Artillery from Virginia to a duel, rifles at ten paces. The dispute was over whose battery was to proceed who's in the order of march. July 2, 1863 was the date set for the meeting. As it turned out, Woolfolk was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, and Moody was captured at the battle of Knoxville, Tennessee, so the duel never took place. Both men survived the war.

Captain James DeWitt Hankins of the Surry Light Artillery from Surry County, Virginia survived the war, but a member of his late command killed him in a duel in 1866.

Undoubtedly, the best-known duel of the Civil War was the one fought between two Confederate generals. The event took place on September 6, 1863 at Little Rock, Arkansas. Brigadier General Lucius Marshall Walker, a native of Tennessee, challenged Brigadier General John Sappington Marmaduke, a Missouri native, to pistols at ten paces. Marmadukes had questioned Walker's courage at the battle of Helena Arkansas, which had been fought the previous July. Marmaduke's bullet hit home and the Confederacy was minus one general. Marmaduke, himself, died in 1887.

After the Civil War, dueling lost its appeal and bowed to the weight of public opinion rather than legislation. Only twenty states have laws against dueling. Probably the last duel in the military was called off at the last minute between an Admiral and a General after the Army-Navy football game in 1893. In America today, the only dueling occurs on the silver screen.



**Brig. General Lucius Marshall Walker**



**Brig. General John Sappington Marmaduke**

# **London Branch of American Civil War Veterans' Roster of 1928**

**By Roger Heiple**

The London Branch of American Civil War Veterans survived for a little less than a quarter of a century. Its survival an ocean away from the battlefields of these veterans' service has fascinated historians and collectors alike. I recently discovered a small booklet in my collection that lists members of the LBACWV, both alive and dead, in 1928. The booklet lists 52 members, even though their membership numbers go up to 147. In 1928 only 11 members survived. They're ages at the time of their death or if still alive in 1928 range from 70 to 105. Their service time ranges from 1 to 9 years.

This page will be updated soon.

# JOHN WHITE GEARY

**Civil War General, Politician, Lawyer, Engineer, Surveyor and Land Speculator**

**By David J. Klinepeter**

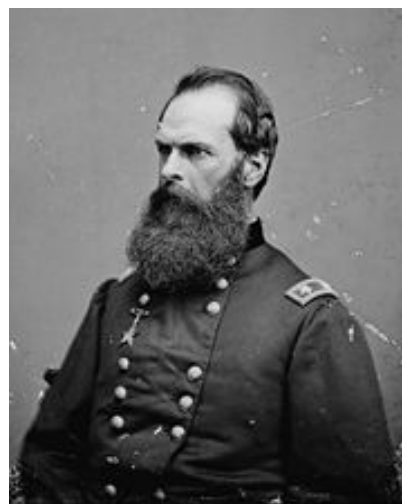
John White Geary was born near Mt. Pleasant, PA in 1819, the son of a schoolmaster. At 14 he started college, majoring in law and engineering, but he had to leave college on the death of his father. He worked a variety of jobs to pay off his father's debts and earn enough to return to college, which he did, graduating in 1841. Geary eventually grew into a giant of a man, standing six foot six, 260 pounds. He married in 1843, fathering several sons. Geary, who had been in the Militia since his teen years, volunteered for the Pennsylvania 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry at the outset of the Mexican-American War in 1847. Lt. Col. Geary heroically led his company up the slopes to Chapultepec, sustaining five wounds in the process. During his military career he would sustain more than ten wounds. Evidently his size made him an easy target. His exploits at Belen Gate would earn him the rank on Colonel.

Soon after his return from Mexico, Geary packed up and moved to California. In 1849, President Polk appointed him postmaster of San Francisco. In 1850 he became the first mayor of San Francisco. Because of his wife's failing health, he returned to Pennsylvania in 1852. She died soon after their arrival. President Franklin Pierce tried to appoint Geary, Territorial Governor of Utah, but he refused. In 1856 he did accept the office of Territorial Governor of Kansas. Governor Geary tried to stay neutral between the two slavery factions in "Bleeding Kansas." He dissolved the state militia and organized a new state militia, but eventually he would rely heavily on federal troops to keep the peace. Although anti-slavery, himself, he blamed this group for most of the problems in the territory. The new President, James Buchanan, fired Geary soon after his inauguration in 1857. On his last day, Geary slipped out of Kansas and returned to his Pennsylvania farm and remarried.

During the Civil War, Geary raised two infantry regiments, the 28<sup>th</sup> and 147<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania. Geary took command of the 28<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania.

In 1862, he commanded the district of the Upper Potomac River. In March, he was wounded and captured near Leesburg, VA. He was immediately exchanged and promoted to Brigadier General. He was wounded again at the battle of Cedar Mountain. He returned as a division commander of XII corps. He led the XII corps at Culp's Hill at Gettysburg. The corps was transferred to Chattanooga, where he distinguished himself at Lookout Mountain. His son was killed at the battle of Wauhatchie. Later he participated in Sherman's march to the sea. He accepted the surrender of Savannah, GA and briefly became the city's military governor. After the war, he was elected to two terms as Governor of Pennsylvania. Three weeks after he left the Governor's Office in 1873, he died of a heart attack. He was just 54-years old.

During the electoral race for the Governor of Pennsylvania in 1866, Geary's opponent distributed the racist poster, pictured at right, depicting Geary as a Negro. His opponent, Hester Clymer, ran on a white supremacy platform. Despite this attack, Geary easily defeated Clymer and won two terms, 1867-1873.



**John White Geary**  
**Born: December 30, 1819**  
**Died: February 8, 1873**



## Veterans' Grave Marker Thefts in Massachusetts

By George G. Kane

Recently, veterans' flag holders have been disappearing from Massachusetts' cemeteries in Montague, Deerfield, Sunderland, Hadley, Amherst and South Hadley. On March 2, Police arrested the Kuklewicz brothers, Stanley, 37 and Mark, 32. They were arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court. The brothers pleaded not guilty to felony larceny and larceny from a grave. Police received a tip that the bronze-flag holders were being stolen from local graveyards and sold as scrap. A confidential informant revealed to Police that a Northern Berkshire County scrap yard, Dobbert Recycling of Florida, MA was melting down the pieces. The flag holders have over one pound of bronze when melted, worth \$50 to \$75 per pound. The Police recovered 74 of more than 200 flag holders. Police discovered seven cash receipts listing the brothers as the sellers. Unless the families marked the plaques, Police will not be able to return the plaques to their rightful owners. The local cemeteries that were affected have removed the flag holders, pending the close of the case. They suggest that families replace the bronze holders with bronze-washed aluminum holders, which have little value. They also suggest burying the shafts in a cement base and welding the plaques to the shafts.

Under Massachusetts law (chapter 272 section 73), anyone who steals, or removes, a veteran's grave marker or flag holder, if convicted, can be sent to prison for up to five years. The sentence for felony larceny is also a term of up to five years in state prison.

It's unclear whether Dobbert Recycling will be charged for receiving stolen goods. They could be fined \$250 for each offense and imprisonment for 2 ½ to 5 years.

The brothers, who have 49 arraignments previous to this arrest, were the sons of a decorated Naval veteran. Mark Kuklewicz died last October at 63. He was a Vietnam Veteran serving aboard the *USS America*.

Although most of the flag holders were from Viet Nam, Korea or WWII. Some were from the Civil War, Span-Am War, and WWI.



### A Union Veteran's Cenotaph

Cenotaphs are monuments or headstones erected to honor people or groups of people who are not buried at the site of the cenotaph. The cenotaph at left is dedicated to a victim of the *Sultana* tragedy. Sgt Aaron Vale Waterbury, of the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan, died in this riverboat explosion, two days after he was released from Andersonville Prison. His body was never recovered. Check out other Civil War graveyard photos at:

<http://www.austinblaircamp7.com/identifyingcivilwargraves.htm>