

# THE ROSE GARDEN BURIALS AT ARLINGTON HOUSE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

## PART TWO

By

George W. Dodge

### INTRODUCTION

During the Civil War the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army, Montgomery Cunningham Meigs, seized the land of Robert Edward Lee and Mary Custis Lee and set aside a portion of that land for use as a soldiers' cemetery. Pursuant to that plan, the area around the Rose Garden of Arlington House was designated as a special burial spot for Civil War Officers. The graves begin 105 feet from Arlington House in an L shape around the Rose Garden. Their proximity to the mansion was part of Meigs' plan to make the property uninhabitable. Sketches of the lives of some of the soldiers buried in the Rose Garden were published in *The Arlington Historical Magazine* in October 1990. The following is a continuation of that article.

#### The Blacksmith of Concord

*Captain Leonard Drown, Company E, 2nd New Hampshire Infantry*

Leonard Drown, a 41-year-old blacksmith, was mustered in as a captain on June 3, 1861. Drown's pre-war residence was Concord, New Hampshire, his nativity — Rhode Island. During the Union advance up the Virginia peninsula toward Richmond the five foot eleven inch captain was killed on May 5, 1862, at the Battle of Williamsburg, a Confederate rear guard action. The regimental chaplain, Henry Parker, recalls Captain Drown's burial at Williamsburg:

. . . . I was present at the Battle of Williamsburg, Va. that I performed funeral services over the body of Capt. Drown, and saw the wound in his head where he was shot by the enemy while leading his co[mpany] in said battle . . .<sup>2</sup>

Drown was reinterred at Arlington after the war, between 1866 and 1869. Surviving Drown was his wife of sixteen years, Mary Lincoln Drown, age forty-one; and three children, Lucy, age fifteen; Israel, age nine; and Mary, age two.<sup>3</sup>

Military Service Record of Leonard Drown, Co. E, 2 New Hampshire, National Archives.

<sup>1</sup>Pension of Leonard Drown. Widow Appl. 6683, Cert. 5108, November 22, 1862, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

## Louis and Adolph Ahrens

### *Lieutenant Louis Ahrens, Veteran Reserve Corps, and Captain of Company E, 4th New York Cavalry*

On May 1, 1862, twenty-nine-year-old Louis Ahrens was commissioned as a lieutenant in "Dickel's Mounted Rifles," 4th New York Cavalry.<sup>1</sup> The regiment conducted operations in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring and summer of 1862.<sup>2</sup> In action near Harrisonburg, Virginia on June 6, 1862, Ahrens received a "gunshot wound of his right arm." He was treated in Washington hospitals from July to October, the splintered fracture of his right upper arm not uniting properly. Promoted to captain on October 9, 1862, Ahrens was sent to the Bowery, New York City, to recruit for Company K for the remainder of 1862. On April 27, 1863, Ahrens resigned from command due to the disability from his wound.<sup>3</sup>

Ahrens could not remain apart from the military for long as he was commissioned a lieutenant in Company C of the 2nd regiment Veteran Reserve Corps in January 1865. He was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas from February 20 to April 1865. He was on duty with the Provost Marshall at Detroit, Michigan from June to November 1865, when he mustered out of the service.<sup>4</sup> He died on April 19, 1866, and was then buried at the Rose Garden.<sup>5</sup>

### *Private Adolph Ahrens, Company G, 29th New York Infantry*

Thirty-year-old Adolph Ahrens enrolled in the 29th New York, "1st German Infantry" on May 16, 1861, in New York City. Ahrens and his regiment were engaged at the Battle of First Bull Run on July 21, 1861. The 29th New York, under General Blenker's command, was one of the few regiments that resisted the Confederate advance during the otherwise disorderly Union retreat. Ahrens was back at the old battlefield the following year at the Battle of Second Bull Run. However, he was killed in action during this conflict on August 29, 1862, and buried on the battlefield.<sup>6</sup> His remains were exhumed and reinterred at Arlington Cemetery. Adolph is buried next to Louis Ahrens, who appears to be his brother. Ahrens is one of but four privates buried at the Rose Garden.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Louis Ahrens, Co. E, 4th New York Cavalry, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Dyer, p. 1373.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of Louis Ahrens, 2nd Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>*Register of Burials.*

<sup>6</sup>Military Service Record of Adolph Ahrens, Co. G, 29th New York Infantry, National Archives.

<sup>7</sup>*Register of Burials.*

## From Massachusetts to Manassas

### *Lieutenant George S. Evans, Company F, 16th Massachusetts*

On July 2, 1861, at Boston, Massachusetts, thirty-three-year-old George Evans was mustered into service as a sergeant. He was soon detailed in the Adjutant's Office. Evans was appointed as Sergeant Major on February 13, 1862. Participating in the Union withdrawal in the Peninsular Campaign, Evans was commissioned as a lieutenant on October 19, 1862. However, twenty-two days later, on November 12, 1862, Evans died in camp near Manassas, Virginia, of "typhoid fever, brought on by exposure and fatigue in the service." Evans was reported to be "in good health until within a few days of his death."<sup>2</sup>

Surviving Evans was his wife of thirteen years, Mary Jane; eleven-year-old Mary, eight-year-old George, and four-year-old Stella. Evans' widow applied for dependency benefits within three weeks of Evans' death (many claims were not made until twenty or thirty years after the war). On account of their father's death while in the military, each child would receive federal payments until the age of sixteen.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of George S. Evans, Co. F, 16 Massachusetts, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Pension of George S. Evans, Widow Appl. 7364, Cert. 46393, December 3, 1862.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

## The Rose Garden Burials and the Vault

### *Lieutenant William Froelich, Company E, 75th Pennsylvania*

William Froelich enlisted on August 9, 1861, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the Second Battle of Bull Run on August 30, 1862, the 75th Pennsylvania took position on the Union left flank, near the Stone House along the Manassas-Sudley Road. While engaged at that location, the Union left flank was struck by five Confederate divisions under the command of Major General James Longstreet. During the battle the 75th Pennsylvania sustained 150 casualties, including William Froelich. The brigade commander, Colonel Wladimir Krzyzanowski, commended the Pennsylvanians for "bravery,"

despite the Union defeat, and mentioned the death of Lieutenant Froelich in his official report.<sup>2</sup>

It appears that Froelich was buried in the Manassas area. After the war soldiers buried on battlefields and camps in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. were exhumed and reinterred at Arlington Cemetery. The remains of unknown soldiers were placed in a vault which was dug on the western side of the Rose Garden. The inscription on the vault, the tomb of the 2,111 unknown Civil War soldiers, states that the “bones . . . [were] gathered after the war from the fields of Bull Run and the route to the Rappahannock.” Significantly the inscription is dated “September A. D. 1866,” at which time the vault was permanently sealed, the inference being that the reinterments had been completed.

Pursuant to the collection of the remains of unknown soldiers for the vault near the Rose Garden, soldiers at identifiable graves were exhumed and buried on the south side of the Rose Garden. The *Arlington Cemetery Register of Burials*, from 1866 to 1869, merely lists the names of buried soldiers without the date of burial. However, if area camps and battlefields had been cleared of the remains of unknown soldiers by September 1866, it is likely that the remains of soldiers at identifiable graves of the same vicinity were exhumed and reinterred by the same date. Fifteen of the eighteen post war Rose Garden (south side) reinterments were from locations within a thirty-mile radius of Arlington. Accordingly, it appears that these reinterments were conducted in the spring and summer of 1866. The post war Rose Garden reinterments and exhumation locations are:

James Ferguson—exhumed from a Washington, D.C. cemetery as he died at Georgetown’s Seminary Hospital on February 15, 1863, prior to the origin of Arlington Cemetery.

Dan Littlefield—Harmony Burial Ground, Washington, D.C.

James Miller—died at Seminary Hospital in Georgetown and presumably originally buried in the District of Columbia as was the aforementioned James Ferguson.

Oscar Wilcox—Rappahannock Station, Virginia.

David Apple—Harmony Burial Ground, Washington, D.C.

O’Neil Coyle—Point Lookout, Maryland.

Lorenzo Gove—Montville, Virginia.

James Hurd—Aldie, Virginia.

George Summatt—Aldie, Virginia.

Sullivan Burbank—Wilderness, Virginia.

Maxamilian Hopkins—Monocacy, Maryland.

William Froelich—Manassas, Virginia.

George Evans—Manassas, Virginia.

Adolph Ahrens—Manassas, Virginia.

George McCulloch—Wilderness, Virginia.  
Leonard Drown—Williamsburg, Virginia.  
Richard Fawcett—Fairfax Station, Virginia.  
James Fleming—Fairfax Station, Virginia.

It would seem logical to conclude that the gathering of remains and reinterments on the south side of the Rose Garden of the soldiers listed above was conducted in concert with the collection and placement of the remains of unknown soldiers into the vault — the Civil War equivalent to the cemetery's famous Tomb of the Unknowns.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of William Froelich, Co. E, 75 Pennsylvania, National Archives, and *Official Records*, Vol. 12, Part II, pp. 312-13.

<sup>2</sup>*Official Records*, pp. 251 and 313.

### Grave Marker 5232

On Friday, May 27, 1864, there were thirty-five burials at the two-week-old "Soldier's Cemetery" at Arlington. None of the burials conducted that day is as unique as the "burial" designated 5232 on a small marker on the Rose Garden's south side. Buried beneath that seemingly meaningless marker are three amputated legs from Judiciary Square Hospital. The Arlington Cemetery burial register has the following entry for grave 5232:

The leg of James G. Carey, Company D, 106 Penn.

The leg of Arthur McQuin, Company H, 14th U.S. Inf.

The leg of Serg. Michael Creighton, Company B, 9 Mass.

The right thigh of James Carey was amputated on May 26, 1864, at Judiciary Hospital. Carey, a five-foot four-inch farmer from Blossburg, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, had received his wound on May 16, 1864. The eighteen-year-old Carey had been in the service barely six weeks, having enlisted on March 28, 1864. According to Carey, he was hit by a minie ball "while on picket duty near Hanover Court House, Va." Carey was unable to wear an artificial leg because the amputation was so close to his hip that any pressure on the stump caused him "severe pain." The federal government granted him a full disability and he received a pension of \$55 per month until his death on February 4, 1913.<sup>2</sup>

Like Carey, Sergeant Michael Creighton was at Judiciary Square Hospital on May 26, 1864, for an amputation. Twenty-year-old Creighton had received a "gunshot wound [in the] left knee . . . on May 12, 1864, near Spotsylvania," Virginia. Creighton had enlisted as a private in the 9th Massachusetts Infantry on June 11, 1861, and was promoted to corporal on October 1, 1861. He was not a stranger to injury, having been wounded in action at Gaines Mill, Virginia on June 27, 1862. Creighton, an unmarried native of Ireland, was



On May 27, 1864, three amputated legs were buried beneath Grave Marker 5232 at the south side of the Rose Garden. The formal burial of the limbs of amputees is further evidence of Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs' intent to desecrate the land around Arlington House.

appointed sergeant on September 1, 1862. He was always present with his unit until his May 18, 1864, hospitalization at Judiciary Square Hospital. A week later his leg was amputated and buried at the Rose Garden.<sup>3</sup> Two weeks later, on June 9, Creighton died and his corpse was buried on June 10, 1864, in grave 819, Range 6, Block 1, Section B of Arlington National Cemetery. Accordingly, Sergeant Creighton has the distinction of being buried in two separate sections of Arlington Cemetery, his left leg in the Rose Garden (Section C) and the remainder of his body in Section 13.<sup>4</sup>

The only details known regarding Arthur McQuin, of Company H, 14th United States Infantry, is that his leg was amputated at Judiciary Square Hospital and it was buried in the Rose Garden on May 27, 1864. He appears to have received his wound at Sanders' Field in the Wilderness, Virginia, on the afternoon of May 5, 1864.<sup>5</sup>

The May 27, 1864, burial of limbs at the south side of the Rose Garden was not entirely novel as three limbs of amputees of Judiciary Square Hospital were buried together in an Arlington Cemetery grave on May 20, 1864.<sup>6</sup> It seems strange that of the thousands of amputations that occurred in hospitals in Washington, D.C. the limbs of certain soldiers would be formally buried in a cemetery. It is unclear as to why limbs were buried in the Rose Garden, a burial area set aside for commissioned officers, as none of the amputees were such officers.

<sup>1</sup>*Register of Burials*. Arlington National Cemetery, Department of the Army.

<sup>2</sup>Military Service Record of James G. Carey, Co. D, 106 Pennsylvania Infantry, National Archives and Pension of James G. Carey, Invalid Appl. 69895, Cert. 47231, May 30, 1865; Widow Appl. 1001803, Cert. 762639, February 14, 1913, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of Michael Creighton, Co. B, 9 Massachusetts Infantry, National Archives, and Pension of Michael Creighton, Mother Appl. 92870, Cert. 50997, May 10, 1865, National Archives.

<sup>4</sup>*Register of Burials*.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

### With Military Honors

#### *Lieutenant Maxamilian Hopkins, Company A, 10th Vermont*

At Brattleboro, Vermont, twenty-two-year-old Maxamilian Hopkins was mustered in the 10th Vermont on May 29, 1862. The regiment arrived in Virginia on September 8, 1862, camping at Arlington Heights until September 14. Hopkins would soon return to Arlington for the bivouac of the dead.<sup>2</sup>

By January 12, 1863, Hopkins, a Canadian farmer, was certified by a doctor as so ill as to be "incapable of performing the duties of his office." Hopkins immediately tendered his resignation. However, before he was able to leave camp, at the mouth of the Monocacy River in Maryland, he succumbed to typhoid fever on January 23, 1863.<sup>3</sup> In a letter dated January 30, 1863, Captain Frost, Hopkins commanding officer, states that:

[Hopkins] was buried with military honors beside a large tree near White's Ford . . . ordered a good stone to be engraved and set up to mark his resting place.<sup>4</sup>

Hopkins was the sixth child born of David and Priscilla Hopkins' eleven children. When Hopkins' father died in Canada in 1877, his mother was granted a pension based on Maxamilian's U.S. service.<sup>5</sup> Lieutenant Hopkins was reinterred at the Rose Garden after the war, his first name errantly engraved.

<sup>1</sup>Military Service Record of Maxamilian Hopkins, Co. A, 10 Vermont, National Archives.

<sup>2</sup>Dyer, p. 1653.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of Maxamilian Hopkins.

<sup>4</sup>Pension of Maxamilian Hopkins, Mother Appl. 337, 988, Cert. 234, 362, April 19, 1886, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

## Prisoner of War

*Lieutenant George W. Batchelder, Company M, 32nd Massachusetts Infantry,  
and Company G, 22 Massachusetts Infantry*

Twenty-two-year-old George Batchelder was mustered into the 22nd Massachusetts Infantry on September 4, 1861, at Melrose as a sergeant. The regiment arrived at Hall's Hill (Arlington) Virginia, on October 13, 1861, and remained there until March 1862. Batchelder was present with his unit until the June 27, 1862, Battle of Gaines' Mill, or the Chickahominy, where he was reported "missing . . . supposed to be wounded and a prisoner."<sup>2</sup> The regiment suffered 283 casualties that day along the Chickahominy River, near Meadow Bridge.<sup>3</sup> Batchelder was paroled on September 12, 1862, and was "absent sick" from his regiment until November 11, 1862. He was stripped of his sergeant stripes for "straggling December 13, 1862" at the Battle of Fredericksburg. However, he was promoted back to sergeant on February 10, 1863.<sup>4</sup>

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, on May 3, 1863, Batchelder was again captured. He was detained less than two weeks, being paroled at City Point, Virginia on May 15, 1863. (During the first three years of the Civil War captured soldiers were sometimes exchanged for a captured opponent of equal rank.) After his parole, Batchelder was sick with "intermittent fever" from August 25, 1863, to October 15, 1863.<sup>5</sup> On November 12, 1864, he was transferred to the 32 Massachusetts Infantry, the three-year term for the 22 Massachusetts having expired. While his new regiment was encamped at Bealeton Station, Virginia, Batchelder received a furlough during which time he was married on April 25, 1864.<sup>6</sup>

Surviving the Virginia Campaign of 1864, Batchelder was commissioned as a second lieutenant on March 3, 1865. Within five weeks the war ended and Batchelder was granted leave to visit his wife whom he said was "long sick with consumption." The regiment was mustered out on June 29, 1865, and Batchelder returned to citizen life as a shoemaker. However, on February 14, 1866, Ellen, his twenty-five-year-old wife, died. Batchelder remarried in 1869. His only child, William, was born the following year. Co-workers characterize Batchelder as having constant attacks of chills, fevers, and coughing and that he "couldn't keep up" with other workers at the shoe factory. The much-maligned Batchelder died on November 6, 1877 at Lynn, Massachusetts. Batchelder's family physician attributed his death to a lung problem, the result of exposure during his captivity as a prisoner of war.<sup>7</sup> Burial records indicate that Batchelder was the last officer buried in the Rose Garden.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fox, p. 166.

<sup>2</sup>Military Service Record of George W. Batchelder, Co. M, 32 Massachusetts and Co. G, 22 Massachusetts, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>Fox, p. 166.

<sup>4</sup>Military Service Record of Batchelder, Co. G, 22 Mass.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Pension of George W. Batchelder, Widow Appl. 289329, Cert. 207668, January, 1882.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>*Register of Burials.*

## For The Honor Of Old Maine

### *Captain George S. Summatt, Company H, 1st Maine Cavalry*

George Summatt, a German immigrant born in Konigsburg, Prussia, joined the Regular Army (the permanent, standing army maintained by the United States in peace as well as war) in 1857. Summatt served in Company K of the Fifth U.S. Cavalry and saw action against Commanche Indians at Wild Horse Creek on October 5, 1858. He was commissioned as captain of Company H on October 8, 1861. He was highly respected among his men, particularly after a skirmish at Middletown, Virginia on May 24, 1862, where it appeared that the company was trapped by Confederates. According to Henry Hall of Company H, Summatt stated, "Let every man keep his place and I will take you all out of here." The company escaped thus raising the estimation of their thirty-one-year-old commander.<sup>1</sup> A year later at Aldie, Virginia, on June 17, 1863, the cavalymen of the First Maine attacked Confederate cavalry which was shielding the movement of Robert E. Lee's army as it marched towards Pennsylvania. Captain Summatt was killed while at the head of this cavalry charging column.<sup>2</sup> He was buried on the battlefield together with one of his men — private James Hurd. They were reinterred at the Rose Garden sometime between 1866 and 1869.

### *Private James A. Hurd, Company H, 1st Maine Cavalry*

On August 28, 1862, James Hurd's father signed a consent form permitting his eighteen-year-old son to enlist in one of the most prominent, if not the most prominent, cavalry units raised in the North, the First Maine Cavalry. Prior to enlisting, young Hurd had been a student in his hometown of Harmony, Maine.<sup>3</sup> For a short time, Hurd would be a student of the war, as illustrated by his letter written thirty days before his death:

Camp near Bealeton Station  
May 17, 1863

Dear Father

. . . this spring campaign, as have the others before it, has proved a failure and . . . I don't see any sign of this war closing this year, it looks

dark. What an awful thought, brother fighting brother. Sometimes when I get a thinking about this war I can't hardly believe that our country is divided and that we are fighting each other . . .

James Hurd<sup>4</sup>

On June 17, 1863, at Aldie, Virginia, Hurd and seven other comrades, including his oldest brother — Washington Hurd, were killed or mortally wounded as they charged the equally famous Fourth Virginia Cavalry, which included the Black Horse Cavalry of Warrenton, Virginia. (Hurd's mortally wounded brother, Washington, was taken prisoner and died shortly after being paroled on August 11, 1863.) Before Hurd was buried on the field, it was observed that he had received a "bullet hole in his bridle hand" and had died of a broken neck.<sup>5</sup> It is likely that another brother, Henry, witnessed the same as he was present.

During the final cavalry charge of James Hurd and Captain George Summatt, a Maine corporal exhorted the regiment to "Come on, boys; here's for the honor of old Maine!"<sup>6</sup> Today private Hurd and Captain Summatt rest together, but a few feet from each other on the south side of the Rose Garden, just as they fell together in battle at Aldie, Virginia.

<sup>1</sup>Edward P. Tobie, *History of the First Maine Cavalry*, (Boston, Mass.: Emery & Hughes, 1887), pp. 578, 586.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 162, and Military Service Record of George S. Summatt, Co. H, 1st Maine Cavalry, National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>Military Service Record of James S. Hurd, Co. H, 1st Maine Cavalry, National Archives.

<sup>4</sup>Pension of James S. Hurd, Father Appl. 201429, Cert. 160076, 1872, National Archives.

<sup>5</sup>Tobie, pp. 162-63, 579, and Military Service Records of Henry and Washington Hurd, Co. H, 1st Maine Cavalry, National Archives. Henry was killed in action at St. Mary's Church, Virginia, June 24, 1864.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 163

### *To Be Concluded*

An Arlington native, George W. Dodge is an Arlington Special Justice and lawyer. He is a member of the research committee of the Society and a frequent contributor to the magazine.

### **Additions and Corrections**

On page 61 of the 1990 *Magazine* the following item should be added:  
1946                      September 3-7. Centennial Celebration of Arlington County.

We thank member Mary L. McCormick for this important addition.