

Calvin Jones Buried Alive at Stones River

Buried Alive at the Battle of Stones River

We all have fears that seem to have been born with us; fears such as getting too close to the edge of a roof or being under water or going underground into a deep cave. One such common fear is that of being buried alive.

Private William Harrison Jones and his brother, Private Calvin Faye Jones of Nunda, Illinois, enlisted in Company H, Illinois 36th Infantry on August 14, 1861; organized at Aurora, Ill., and "mustered in" on September 23, 1861. Their regiment moved to St. Louis, Missouri, thence to Rolla, Missouri, on September 24-29, 1861. The 36th was attached to the Department of Missouri on January, 1862.

In September, 1862 the regiment was attached to the Army of Mississippi; and then to the 37th Brigade, 11th Division, Army of the Ohio to October 1862 and then the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Right Wing, 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. They fought in many battles in Missouri and Arkansas and were at the Battles of Pea Ridge, the occupation of Corinth, Mississippi, then into Kentucky including the "Battle of Perryville" on Oct. 8, 1862. They advanced on Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 26-30, 1862 and were in the "Battle of Stones River".

The Jones brothers were fighting under Brigade General Philip H. Sheridan. Brigade General Joshua W. Sill was commanding Sheridan's First Brigade and was killed almost instantly at the opening of the battle on December 31, 1862. General Sill was killed at an area between Manson Pike and what is now Medical Center Parkway. The commander of the 36th Illinois, Col. Nicholas Greusel took over for General Sill, and Major Silas Miller assumed command of the 36th Illinois.

At ten o'clock, the rearmed General Sheridan's Brigades made one more stand, completing what was probably a decisive fighting retreat that saved the Federal army at Stones River, and one that was possibly never surpassed during the Civil War. These troops held from ten AM until twelve PM before retreating from the rocks and cedars that would forever after be called "The Slaughter Pen". Sheridan's division had lost more than one-third of its fighting force and, without ammunition, had to counterattack with bayonets to keep the Confederates off its flanks as the unit withdrew.

A few mornings later, a burying crew found William and Calvin Jones. The burying crew buried the two brothers side-by-side in a shallow ditch because there was frost on both brothers. Later, an old black man who had come to the Union lines for his freedom and was taking water and food to wounded soldiers saw the earth moving and got help to free Calvin Jones from his premature grave.

Calvin F. Jones was discharged April 9, 1863 from wounds received at the Battle of Stones River. Private William H. Jones was removed from the battlefield in 1865 and now rests in Grave N-5569 in Stones River National Cemetery.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

ENLISTED MEN OF COMPANY "H".

Jones, Calvin F.; place of residence Nunda; Date of enlistment was August 14; Date of muster was September 23; Discharged on April 9, 1863, due to wounds.

Jones, William H.; place of residence Nunda; Date of enlistment was August 14; Date of muster was September 23; Killed at Sone [sic] River on December 31, 1862.

Notes

William H. (Harrison) Jones
Grave Number – 5569

Private William H. Jones and his brother, Private Calvin F. (Faye) Jones of Nunda, enlisted in Company H, Illinois 36th Infantry, on August 14, 1861.

The Adjutant General's Report shows that Calvin F. Jones was Discharged April 9, 1863 – wounds; and that William H. Jones was killed at Stones River, December 31, 1862.

Karol Ohe stated:

1. At Stones River, the Jones' brothers (Harrison and Calvin) were buried side by side in a ditch.
2. A black man, seeing the earth move, found Calvin and nurse him to health.

Susan Jones Pentico:

"William Harrison Jones was brother to Calvin Faye Jones who also served in the same unit and shared the same parents.

"Calvin Faye Jones and Hannah Young Jones were married in IOWA.

ILLINOIS

REGIMENTAL HISTORIES

36th REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Organized at Aurora, Ill., and mustered in September 23, 1861. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., then to Rolla, Mo., September 24-29, 1861. Attached to Dept. of Missouri to January, 1862. 2nd Brigade, Army of Southwest Missouri, to March, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, Army of Southwest Missouri, to June, 1862. 1st Brigade, 5th Division, Army Mississippi, to September, 1862. 37th Brigade, 11th Division, Army of the Ohio, to October, 1862. 37th Brigade, 11th Division, 3rd Corps, Army Ohio, to November, 1862.

1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Right Wing, 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 4th Army Corps, to August, 1865. Dept. of Texas, to September, 1865.

SERVICE. —Duty at Rolla, Mo., till January 14, 1862. Expedition against Freeman's forces November 1-9, 1861. Curtis' Campaign against Price in Missouri and Arkansas January to March, 1862. Advance on Springfield February 2-13. Pursuit of Price into Arkansas February 14-29. Battles of Pea Ridge, Ark., March 6-8. At Keitsville, Mo., till April 5. March to Batesville, Ark., April 5-May 3. Moved to Cape Girardeau, Mo., May 11-22, thence to Hamburg Landing, Tenn., May 23-29. Occupation of Corinth, Miss., May 30. Pursuit to Booneville May 31-June 6. Duty at Rienzi till September 6. Moved to Covington, Ky., thence to Louisville, Ky., September 6-19. Pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky October 1-16. Battle of Perryville, October 8. March to Nashville, Tenn., October 16-November 7. Duty there till December 26. Reconnoissance [sic] toward Clarksville November 15-20. Reconnoissance [sic] to Mill Creek November 27. Advance on Murfreesboro, Tenn., December 26-30. Battle of Stone's [sic] River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863. At and near Murfreesboro till June. Expedition toward Columbia March 4-14. Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign June 24-July 7. Occupation of Middle Tennessee till August 15. Passage of Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga (Ga.) Campaign August 16-September 22. Battle of Chickamauga, Ga., September 19-20. Siege of Chattanooga September 24-November 23. Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign November 23-27. Orchard Knob November 23-24. Mission Ridge November 25. Pursuit to Graysville November 26-27. March to relief of Knoxville November 28-December 8. Operations in East Tennessee till January, 1864. Regiment Veteranize January 1, 1864, and Veterans on furlough till March. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign May 1 to September 8. Demonstration on Rocky Faced Ridge May 8-11. Buzzard's Roost Gap May 8-9. Demonstration on Dalton May 9-13. Battle of Resaca May 14-15. Adairsville May 17. Near Kingston May 18-19. Cassville May 19. Advance on Dallas May 22-25. Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-June 5. Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain June 10-July 2. Pine Hill June 11-14. Lost Mountain June 15-17. Assault on Kenesaw June 27. Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4. Chattahoochie [sic] River July 5-17. Buckhead, Nancy's Creek, July 18. Peace Tree Creek July 19-20. Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 25. Flank movement on Jonesboro August 25-30. Battle of Jonesboro August 31-September 1. Lovejoy Station September 2-6. Pursuit of Hood, into Alabama October 1-26. Nashville Campaign November-December. Columbia, Duck River, November 24-27. Spring Hill November 29. Battle of Franklin November 30. Battle of Nashville December 15-16. Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28. At Huntsville, Ala. till March 1865. [text ends]

36th Illinois at Stones River

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Army of the Cumberland—Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, Commanding
Right Wing: Maj. Gen. Alexander M.D. McCook
Third Division: Brig. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan
First Brigade: Brig. Gen. Joshua W. Sill (K)

36th Ill.

Col. Nicholas Greusel

Maj. Silas Miller

Capt. Porter C. Olson

Note. 6:00 AM 12-31-82 10,000 of Hardee's Rebels stamped into the Union camps. McCook had 16,000 soldiers in his corps, but mentally, and in some cases tactically, they were not prepared to receive an attack. Surprise and momentum were the decisive factors and these the Confederates firmly possessed. p. 85 (Bloody Winter)