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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

WE BURY THE BRAVE Jan 2010

When we read the list of dead and wounded from battle after battle in the Civil War we sometimes forget that each of those casualties was plucked from civilian life and placed on a sometimes distant battlefield. The following is an article that appeared in the *Scioto Gazette* on February, 10, 1863.

"The reinternment at Frankfort (Ohio) of some of Ross County's noble sons who fell in the great battle of Stones River, Tenn. this day presented a scene more solemn and imposing than any perhaps ever witnessed in this village or vicinity. It was the re-internment of ten brave men who fell in the Battle of Stone River, Tenn.

On Wednesday morning the bodies arrived from Cincinnati, eleven in all. At noon, eleven wagons in gloomy procession were moving slowly to town with the bodies to be deposited in the Baptist Church to await their burial. So impressive was the scene that scarcely a dry eye of the hundreds that witnessed the procession was to be seen.

The following are the names of the persons whose bodies were brought from the battlefield: Capt. P. E. Taylor, Lieut. W.W. Blacker, Sgt. John Pearce, Sgt. John Davis of Co. E and Cpl Josiah Finemore, Cpl Royal Augustus and Pvts. John F. Mowbray, Marshall M. Blacker, James Hodeden, Ebenezer Finemore, and Henry M. Persell of Co. A-- all of the 18th Ohio Regiment.

All of these were interred today except James Hodeden who will be buried tomorrow at the Union Chapel near Chillicothe. Capt. P. E. Taylor was buried in the Baptist grave yard near this place. On leaving home it was his last request that if he fell and he was brought home, he should be buried beside his mother, a request which remained improper not to have heeded. The remaining nine were buried in the village cemetery in the following manner:

One large circular vault was dug and the bodies placed in the order of rank on the right and left of Lieut. Blacker; the non-commissioned officers on the right and the privates on the left. Their feet all point to the center where a suitable marker is to be erected.

It may seem doubtful propriety to someone to disinter bodies when once buried and remove them such a distance as was these, but to my mind it seems perfectly proper in this case. Though the fallen hero may be honorably buried upon the battlefield, yet in a hostile country, where no respect will be given in after years to his moldering remains or appreciation to his noble sacrifice. It is but natural that father, mothers, sisters and brothers should crave to bury their fallen in more hospitable soil and besides it is a relief to sometimes visit the tombs of your loved ones and weep our burden of grief away.

I cannot but forbear expressing my profoundest sympathy to Mrs. C. Blacker whose two sons we laid side by side this day. Years ago, left in widowhood she has since depended upon her sons for support, but in the same day and hour, her sons were taken from her. She must now stand alone with a heart rung with grief."