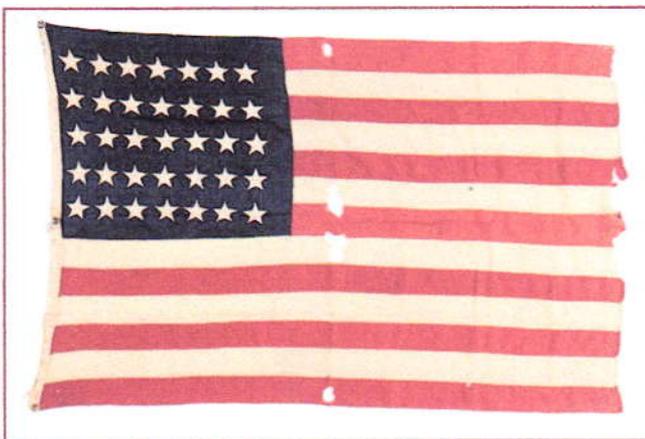


Tenth in a Series—Biographies of our Ancestors

Corporal Landon Lyon

Direct Ancestor of CC David McReynolds, Camp Counselor Joseph McReynolds and Junior Member Padraig Fitzsimons



Landon Lyon enlisted as a Union soldier 5 Aug 1864 and was discharged 5 Sep 1865 after serving one year and one month. He was discharged in Washington County, Tennessee, due to the disability incurred from an ankle injury caused when his horse fell jumping a fence in the Bull's Gap fight.

Company H with 99 men was raised in Carter County, Tennessee. During Landon Lyon's service in the Thirteenth Cavalry, he was trav-

eling with the Eighth and Ninth Tennessee Cavalry under General Alvan C. Gillem as a part of the Tennessee Governor's Guards. Shortly after his enlistment, this brigade traveled to Greeneville, Tennessee. Here they killed the Confederate raider John Hunt Morgan on 4 Sep 1864. This brigade was part of Stoneman's raid to Marion, Virginia, in late 1864. This brigade was in continuous fighting in East Tennessee with the forces of General Vaughn and others from September 1864 until the end of the year, with the largest being the Battle of Bull's Gap.

In November 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge undertook an expedition into East Tennessee, anticipating that Confederate sympathizers would join his force and help drive the Yankees from the area. The Union forces initially retired in front of this force and, on 10 Nov, were at Bull's Gap on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad. The Confederates attacked on the morning of the 11th but were repulsed by 11:00 am. Artillery fire continued throughout the day. The next morning, both sides attacked; the Confederates sought to hit the Union forces in a variety of locations but they gained little. The next day, firing occurred throughout most of the day, but the Confederates did not assault the Union lines because they were marching to flank them on the right. Before making the Confederate's flank attack, the Union forces who were short on everything from ammunition to rations withdrew from Bull's Gap after midnight. Breckinridge pursued them but the Union received reinforcements and

foul weather played havoc with the roads and streams. Breckinridge, with most of his force, retired back to Virginia. This victory was a temporary Union setback in the Federal plans to rid East Tennessee of Confederate influence. The Battle of Bulls Gap was a victory for Confederate soldiers who repelled the Union forces of whom Landon Lyon was a member. Approximately 2400 soldiers fought in the battle and 241 men died at Bulls Gap in November 1864.

Pension Record shows soldier as Landon Lyon, service as 13th TN Guard, date of filing 10 Dec 1890, name of dependent Catherine Lyon, date of her widow's filing 6 Apr 1911, attorney J. D. Morrell.

