

Eleventh in a Series—Biographies of our Ancestors

Private Andrew Evans Company C, 6th Tennessee Infantry

Something a little different this month in this series. Instead of a biography of a member ancestor, we are reviewing the history of a union soldier that we discovered buried in Mount Olive Baptist Church Cemetery during our recent cleaning of the Sultana Memorial. This Union veteran is Private Andrew Evans of Company C, 6th Tennessee Infantry, USA.

Records show that Evans was enrolled 18 April 1862 by Rufus M. Bennett for a term of 3 years in Knox County, Tennessee. The unit was mustered in at Camp Spears, Whitley County, Kentucky on 23 April 1862 and was mustered out on 27 April 1865 in Nashville.

At his enlistment, he was 26 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with dark complexion, blue eyes and dark hair. His occupation was listed as "farmer".

The 6th Tennessee Infantry Regiment was involved in many major engagements of the war: the Cumberland Gap Campaign, the Battle of Resaca, the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, the Siege of Atlanta, the Battle of Jonesboro, the Battle of Spring Hill, the Second Battle of Franklin, the Battle of Nashville and the Carolinas Campaign.

Field officers included Colonel Joseph A. Cooper (later Brigadier General), Lieutenant Colonel Edward Maynard, and Majors William C. Pickens and Alexander Marion Gamble.

Andrew Evans was born in Blount County, Tennessee in December 1835, the son of John and Margaret Evans. On 30 April 1857, he married Rebecca A. Wilhite of nearby Knox County and established his residence there. His first child, a daughter Laurinda, was born in 1862, shortly before his enlistment in the Union army. He had five more children who were born after the war: John Alexander (b. 1866), Samuel M. (b. 1868), Joanna (b. 1872), Richard C. (b. 1876), and Martha C. (b. 1878). He died on 17 January 1903 in Knox County, Tennessee and, as we discovered, is buried in the Mount Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.