

MRS. WATERMAN'S BOYS

When the Confederate prisoners held at Camp Randall were removed in the summer of 1862, they left behind 138 of their comrades who had succumbed to illness and circumstance while detained in Madison. The graves of these men—in the northernmost Confederate cemetery—were understandably forgotten by a populace faced with escalating Union casualties and the hardships and shortages brought on by the Civil War. They had fallen into neglect by the time southern-born Alice Whiting Waterman moved to Madison in 1868.¹

Alice Whiting Waterman was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on October 18, 1820, but moved with her family to New York City when she was ten.² A widow by the time she moved to Madison, Waterman worked as a housekeeper, and later a landlady, at the Vilas House Hotel for several years after her arrival.³ Although she lived in the north most of her adult life, a friend of Waterman's explained that she "had always a great affection for the Southland," an affection that became apparent a few years after her relocation to Madison when she learned of a section of Forest Hill Cemetery that was the final resting place for over one hundred Confederate soldiers.⁴

Waterman cleared each gravesite of weeds, placed mounds of earth above the graves, and planted trees and a hedge. She also had a wooden fence built around the section of the cemetery known as "Confederate Rest" and replaced the original grave markers with a painted board bearing the name of the deceased soldier, his company and regiment, and the date of his death. For close to thirty years, Mrs. Waterman faithfully took care of Confederate Rest, planting flowers, replacing the boards marking each soldier's grave three times, and replacing the original wooden fence with a stone border on which she spent the final five hundred dollars of her savings.⁵ She also planted a hedge around the graves, "to keep the cold wind off my boys."⁶ Mrs. Waterman hoped to place a marble monument in the cemetery that would bear the names of the Confederate soldiers buried there. Unfortunately, Mrs. Waterman's livelihood was lost, and her plans went unfulfilled at the time of her death in September 1897.⁷

Waterman's efforts did not go unnoticed. She was reportedly encouraged and assisted in her efforts by then-governor Lucius Fairchild, and later received offers of assistance from acting Madison mayor B. J. Stevens and other city officials.⁸ Fairchild's successor, C. C. Washburn, along with a contingent of former Union soldiers, placed flowers on the graves Mrs. Waterman

cared for so meticulously, becoming the first northern governor to honor the Union's erstwhile enemies buried in northern soil.⁹ For many years thereafter, Wisconsin governors continued to decorate these Confederate graves in Forest Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day, a tradition the Confederate Veterans' Association called a "beautiful and touching tribute."¹⁰ The Association also noted that the attention paid to the graves exhibited "a more than excellent spirit on the part of the good people of Madison and encourage us to believe that in that city at least, the war with all its animosities, has long been at an end."¹¹

After her death, Mrs. Waterman was remembered fondly in the *Confederate Veteran*, and Major F. W. Oakley, who had taken Mrs. Waterman into his family in 1883 when her property was lost, received letters from several Confederate veterans expressing their gratitude for Mrs. Waterman's work. Oakley also received offers for donations to build a suitable monument for Mrs. Waterman, who was buried at her request near "her Boys" in Confederate Rest.¹² Donations were collected throughout the south, and although the Spanish-American War delayed fundraising, Mrs. Waterman had her kindness repaid on June 15, 1906, when the Daughters of the Confederacy erected a marble monument bearing her name and the inscription: "Erected in loving memory by the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Mrs. Alice Whiting Waterman and her boys."¹³

Confederate Rest, which is part of Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery, is still maintained by the City of Madison, and can be visited on the city's near west side at 1 Speedway, Madison, WI 53705. For more information on visiting Forest Hill Cemetery, call (608) 266-4720 or email: foresthillememetery@cityofmadison.com.

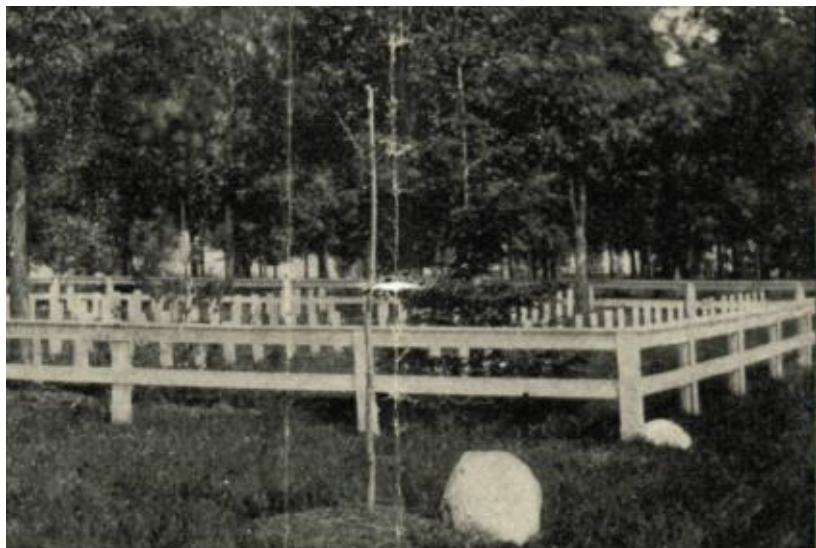
Notes

1. "Report of the Committee," Confederate Veterans Association publication, January 2, 1898, 4, in Frank W. Oakley papers, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Madison.
2. Major F. W. Oakley to Colonel J. B. O'Bryan, January 3, 1898, Frank W. Oakley Papers.
3. Madison Directory, 1868 (Madison, WI: A. Brainerd, 1868), 102; Madison Directory, 1875-1876 (Madison, WI: Pryor and Co., 1875-1876), 97.
4. Major F. W. Oakley to Colonel J. B. O'Bryan, January 3, 1898, Frank W. Oakley Papers.
5. O. D. Brandenburg, "A Woman of Mystery," *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 5, 1921.
6. Brandenburg, *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 29, 1885.
7. *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 29, 1885.
8. "Report of the Committee," 3-4.
9. William A. Titus, "A Wisconsin Burial Place of Confederate Prisoners of War," *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 36, no. 3 (Spring 1953), 194.
10. "Report of the Committee," 4.
11. *Ibid.*
12. "Beautiful Devotion to Confederates," *Confederate Veteran* 6, no. 1 (January 1898), 43.
13. *Wisconsin State Journal*, December 27, 1901, July 5, 1921; *Capital Times*, May 30, 1967.



Alice Waterman took upon herself the work of cleaning up the section of Forest Hill Cemetery where Confederate dead were buried.





Confederate Rest, the section of Forest Hill Cemetery at Madison where Confederates who died while at Camp Randall are interred, was surrounded by the wooden fence Mrs. Alice Waterman built.

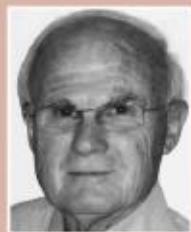


Confederate graves at Forest Hill Cemetery decorated with Confederate flags

Notes

1. Carolyn J. Mattern, *Soldiers When They Go: The Story of Camp Randall, 1861–1865* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1981), 2–3. Some of the best studies on Civil War prison camps include: Charles W. Sanders Jr., *While in the Hands of the Enemy: Military Prisons of the Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2005); Lonnie Spear, *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1997); and George Levy, *To Die in Chicago: Confederate Prisoners at Camp Douglas, 1862–1865* (Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 1994).
2. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, March 3, March 4, March 13, March 17, March 18, March 20, March 24, April 8, April 9, 1862.
3. Thomas H. Lockridge to Margaret J. Lockridge, Tiptonville, Tenn. [1862]. Lockridge Papers in the possession of the author. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 9, 1862. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880–1901), Ser. I, vol. 8, 674–676 (hereafter cited as OR). A good analysis of the total number of prisoners captured can be found in Larry J. Daniel and Lynn N. Bock, *Island No. 10: Struggle for the Mississippi Valley* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1996), 142–144, 159.
4. *Chicago Times* reporter quoted in *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 12, 1862. OR, Ser. I, vol. 8, 807–808.
5. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 435. James M. McPherson, *The Battle Cry of Freedom* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), 394.
6. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 439. Daniel, *Island No. 10*, 146. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, May 3, May 10, 1862. Thomas Lockridge to Margaret J. Lockridge, Madrid Bend, March 7, 1862, and Tiptonville [1862]. A plaque north of Tiptonville, Tennessee, marks where the Confederates surrendered and the location of the mass grave.
7. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 11, April 15, 1862. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 509, 539–541. William DeLoss Love, *Wisconsin in the War of the Rebellion* (Chicago: Church and Goodman, 1866), 389. *Wisconsin Daily Patriot* April 19, 1862. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot* April 26, 1862. It has previously been written that Lt. Col. Whipple was promoted to replace Col. Sanders (see Mattern, 66) and that Whipple was relieved of command and replaced by Sanders (J.C.R. Kerr, in *Confederate Veteran*, January 1918, 45). However, multiple sources indicate that Sanders and Whipple served together in the 19th Wisconsin as Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel, respectively, until May, 1863 when Whipple was given command of the gunboat General Jesup. See for example William De Loss Love, *Wisconsin in the War of the Rebellion*, 389–395.
8. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 21, 1862. *Wisconsin Daily Patriot* April 24, 1862. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, April 26, May 3, 1862.
9. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, April 26, 1862. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 22, April 23, April 25, 1862. Mattern, 63–64, 65. *Confederate Veteran* 26 (January 1918), 45. George J. Paddock to his sister, April 27, 1862. George J. Paddock Papers, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Madison. P. E. Ward to Frank W. Oakley, January 11, 1898, Frank W. Oakley Papers.
10. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 25, 1862. George J. Paddock to his sister, April 27, 1862. George J. Paddock Papers.
11. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, April 26, 1862. Many historians have continued to examine what motivated the Civil War soldier, north and south. See: Larry M. Logue, “Who Joined the Confederate Army,” in *The Civil War Soldier: A Historical Reader*, ed. Michael Barton and Larry M. Logue (New York: New York University Press, 2002). Bell I. Wiley, *The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1971), 15–19. Thomas H. Lockridge to Martha L. Lockridge, Columbus, KY, February 25, 1862.
12. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 539–541. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 29, April 30, May 3, 1862. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, May 3, 1862. George J. Paddock to his father, May 5, 1862. George J. Paddock Papers. Lieutenant Colonel Hoffman wrote to Secretary of War Stanton on May 16 that the soldiers guarding the prisoners took lumber, straw and fuel for their own use. It is hard to believe the prisoners were not aware of such activity. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 539–541.
13. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 6, 1862. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 513, 526, 586; vol. 4, 52–53. *Confederate Veteran* 32 (July 1924), 283–284.

14. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 16, 1862. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, May 24, 1862. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 578–586.
15. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 578–586, 598.
16. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 16, 1862.
17. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 10, 1862. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 509. George J. Paddock to his sister, April 27, 1862. George J. Paddock to his father, May 5, 1862. Levy, *To Die in Chicago*, 70.
18. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 3, May 5, 1862. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, May 3, May 10, 1862.
19. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 6, May 8, May 27, 1862. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 526, 528, 539–542, 632.
20. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 526–527, 586, 607, 617. Sanders, *While in the Hands of the Enemy*, especially 90, 310–311. See also: Hoffman to J. Cooper McKee, Assistant Surgeon U.S. Army, Camp Butler, Ill., in OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 607, and Hoffman to Captain Thomas Foster Jr., Commissary of Subsistence, Indianapolis, in OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 617.
21. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, May 28, May 29, May 30, June 24, 1862. *Weekly Wisconsin Patriot*, May 31, June 14, June 28, 1862. OR, Ser. II, vol. 4, 52–53. Colonel Hoffman had written to Smith on May 7 telling him to use Confederate privates as nurses. OR, Ser. II, vol. 3, 526–527.
22. OR, Ser. II, vol. 4, 422.
23. OR, Ser. II, vol. 4, 422–423.
24. *Wisconsin Daily State Journal*, April 22, May 30, 1862.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Thompson is professor emeritus of history at the University of Nebraska–Omaha, where he spent thirty-five years teaching American colonial and Southern history. He is author of a history of his campus and numerous articles published

in state historical and regional journals, most of which focus on social history. Dr. Thompson hopes to travel to Madison in the near future to visit Forest Hill Cemetery and the grave of his ancestor, Thomas H. Lockridge, who was a private in the 4th Battalion, Arkansas Volunteers. He previously published two articles dealing with Thomas Lockridge in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, “Letters Home: From Private Thomas Henry Lockridge, 1861–1862” and “Searching for the American Dream in Arkansas: Letters of a Frontier Family.”