

#1 – The Soldier's Plot (CSA)

The remains of 231 unknown Confederate soldiers are buried in what are now unmarked graves near the center of the cemetery. The Confederate Soldier Monument and the First National Flag, both erected by the Mollie Moore Chapter 217 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (who secured the deed to the plot and took up its care) are a fitting memorial to the soldiers who died in or near Tyler during the War Between the States. Most of those buried here died from disease, and not from combat wounds. The statue, which was unveiled in June 1909 to a crowd of 5,000 people, depicts a common enlisted Confederate soldier. It is created from marble and was crafted in Italy.

#2 – Colonel Bryan Marsh (CSA)

Bryan Marsh arrived in Tyler at age 17 when his family relocated from Alabama in 1850 and became the family patriarch four years later upon the death of his father. Upon the outbreak of the War Between the States, he joined Co. C of the 17th Texas Cavalry, leaving behind a wife and infant son. Captured and held in a Union POW camp, he was later exchanged for Union POWs and rejoined his regiment. Despite losing his wife Mittie to typhoid fever in December of 1863 and being wounded during a battle at New Hope Church, Georgia in June of 1864 that resulted in his right arm being amputated, he continued to serve until the war's end. Following the war, he returned to Tyler, established a wholesale merchandising business and remarried. He would also serve as Smith County's Sheriff for 20 years and in 1890 be placed in command of Texas Ranger troops and sent to Fort Concho by Governor Oran M. Roberts quell racial disturbances among T&P RR laborers.

#3 – Corporal Henry Stapp (USA)

Henry Stapp was born in Missouri, near the Kansas border, around 1840. Soon after the outbreak of "the Southern Rebellion" he enlisted in the 6th Kansas, Co. K., which was part of the Army of the Frontier, at Fort Scott, Kansas. His cavalry unit was primarily tasked with protecting the borders of Kansas and frequently engaged raiding parties from Missouri including forces under William Quantrill. His unit would also be assigned to help the 2nd Ohio Cavalry in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) during the battle of Cow-Skin Prairie and be sent to Southwest Missouri where they engaged Confederate troops from Texas. Mustered out in December 1864, he would marry and settle down in Sebastian Co., Arkansas. His family came to Tyler in the early 1880s where he worked as a carpenter. After his death, his family would eventually relocate to El Paso.

#4 – Edwin S. Rowland (CSA)

Edwin Rowland was born in Henderson, NC in 1846. At age 15, he enlisted in the 1st North Carolina Regiment and later transferred to the 5th Cavalry, part of Barringer's Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia. He carried General Lee's final dispatch to President Jefferson Davis prior to the surrender at Appomattox. After the war, he would migrate with the Rowland families and eventually settle in Tyler in the late 1870s.

#5 – Captain Sidney S. Johnson (CSA)

Sidney Johnson was born in Mississippi and came to Tyler as a boy when his family arrived in 1854. At the start of the war, he joined the 3rd Texas Cavalry. He was soon appointed First Lieutenant of Co. K. On the day his company was to leave Tyler, it was a day of both fanfare for the community (bands played and speeches were made on the Smith Co. Courthouse Square and sadness for the unit's loved ones. A young girl even read a poem and later presented Lt. Johnson with a handmade flag we would later carry into battle. After four long years, numerous battles and several wounds, Captain Johnson would return to Tyler, marry and begin a law practice. However, he is best remembered for being the first local historian for Tyler and Smith Co. He would later have two books published; *Some Biographies of Old Settlers* and *Texans Who Wore the Gray*.

#6 – Captain James P. Douglas (CSA)

James P. Douglas was born in 1836 near Lancaster, South Carolina. His family moved to Tyler in 1848. He became the family patriarch at age 17 upon the death of his father. Relatively educated, he became the principle of the Tyler Male Academy, studied law and later bought an interest in the *Tyler Reporter* (which became the *Tyler Courier-Times*), serving as its editor. Upon the outbreak of the War Between the States, he organized the Smith County Artillery with 50 local recruits. Combined with a similar unit formed in Dallas, the Good-Douglas Battery, following a period of training, was assigned to Gen. Ben McCullough's Army of the West in Arkansas. Following an engagement at Pea Ridge, the battery was transferred to the Army of Tennessee. After the Battle of Corinth, MS, he promoted to captain and placed in charge of what became the Douglas Battery for the rest of the war. The unit fought at Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Atlanta with John Bell Hood's army. While covering a retreat from Nashville, the battery was overrun by Union Cavalry, but Captain Douglas and his brother managed to escape capture.

Following the war, he was elected to the Texas Legislature, and later entered the agricultural business in and around Tyler. This would move him to form the Tyler Tap Railroad and serve as its president. The Tyler Tap would become the Texas Branch of the Cotton Belt RR. The local Sons of Confederate Camp is named in his honor.

#7 – Captain John P. Smith (CSA)

John Smith was born in 1838 in South Carolina and lived in Cobb Co., GA for a number of years before moving to the Sawn Community, north of Tyler. In addition to farming, he worked part time in the mercantile business in Quitman. When war broke out, he enlisted as a private in Clark's Texas Regiment, part of the Trans-Mississippi Army. After participating in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, LA, he was captured at Jenkins Ferry. He was released in a POW exchange and rejoined his unit for the remainder of the war, rising in rank along the way. Following the war, he returned to farming in Winona and married Sallie Wiggins, the daughter of his former commanding officer. After moving to Tyler, he would serve as a JP, Smith Co. Sheriff and Tyler City Marshall.

#8 – Dr. David. H. Connally (CSA)

David H. Connally was born near Atlanta, GA in 1837. He attended Atlanta Medical College, graduating in 1860. Already a member of the local militia, he joined the 1st Georgia at the outbreak of the war as a hospital steward and later advanced to Assistant Surgeon. In May 1863, he was transferred to the 3rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry, which was part of the Army of Northern Virginia, and served as the unit's doctor. By 1865 he advanced to Post Surgeon. Married to Sallie Winship in January 1863, he would return to Atlanta to practice medicine following the war. In 1866, the family moved to Smith Co. to join Sallie's brother who had moved to the area prior to the war. He moved to Tyler in 1870 and established his medical practice above Bowen's Drug Store on the Tyler Square. He would later serve as the Tyler and Smith Co. Health Officer, a trustee of Marvin Methodist Church and on the Tyler school board. His eldest son Walter became a noted Tyler businessman and civic leader.

#9 – Willian Chesterfield Day (CSA)

Known as "Chess", Mr. Day was born in 1833 near Anderson, South Carolina. He and his family moved to Smith Co. in 1854, settling near Whitehouse. In June of 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co. K – 3rd Texas Cavalry, which became known as the Ross Texas Brigade when Sul Ross became its commander. He was slightly wounded during the battle of Oakhill, Missouri where his horse was shot out from under him. Commended for bravery by General Nathan Bedford Forrest, he remained with the brigade throughout the war. Immediately following his parole in Jackson, MS, his leg was crushed while attempting to load his horse on a ferry boat, which required amputation. He returned to Smith Co., would marry and serve as Smith Co. Tax Assessor-Collector.

#10 – Thomas J. Epperson (CSA)

Thomas J. Epperson was born in Georgia in 1842. His family moved to Texas in 1846 and settled in Smith Co. in 1848. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, he enlisted in the Confederate Army and was assigned to the 7th Texas Infantry. His regiment marched from Texas to Memphis, TN and then on to Nashville, TN. From there, the regiment travelled by boat to Clarksville, TN. They soon received word that Union troops were advancing toward Hopkinsville, KY. His regiment was ordered to Hopkinsville to help defend the city. While stationed there, he became ill and died on December 31, 1861. His body, along with the body of another Smith Co. soldier, was returned to Tyler by a Lt M. J. Dean, making him one of the first two Confederate soldiers buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

#11 – Oakwood's Unknown Soldier (CSA)

One of the few above-ground burials at Oakwood Cemetery, this unique brick crypt evidently holds the remains of a Confederate veteran, given its CSA foot marker. There is no other marker or information associated with this unusual gravesite. It is not known if the individual buried here was a war casualty or simply a deceased veteran of the War Between the States. CSA foot markers were placed at Confederate veterans' gravesites by the Mollie Moore Davis Chapter 217 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to signify the person's service during the war. Over the years, the individual buried in this unique grave would come to be called Oakwood's Unknown Soldier.

#12 – Elif Albertson (CSA)

Elif Albertson was born in 1845 in Norway. In 1857 his older brother, Tom (who had moved to America) returned to Norway for a visit. Tom would bring Elif with him when he returned to America in 1858. Tom had a bakery on the courthouse square in Tyler, having relocated from an early Norwegian community located in Henderson Co. called "Four Mile Prairie". In 1862, at age 17, Elif joined the Confederate Army. A private, he was assigned to Company C of the 20th Texas Cavalry Regiment commanded by Thomas C. Bass. His regiment saw duty in Arkansas, Missouri and the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). His regiment was dismounted early in the war, so he effectively served as an infantryman. He returned to Tyler after the war ended and in 1868 married Ellen Halverson, another Norwegian immigrant from Four Mile Prairie. They built a home on Bois D'arc Ave., near Bow Street. He would continue to partner with his brother Tom in the dry goods and grocery businesses. He was the father of 13 children, many of whom would become civic leaders in Tyler.

#13 – Captain Franklin N. Gary (CSA)

Franklin Gary was born in 1828 in South Carolina. Both of his parents died while he was young and he yielded his share of the family estate to his sisters. He would earn enough money to educate himself and graduate from Marysville College (in Tennessee) in 1850. He came to Tyler and established the Tyler Academy School in 1852. He continued to study the law and was admitted to the bar in 1856. In early 1861, he bought a fine home on North Broadway (which he would later sell to Dr. Samuel Goodman) and married Martha Boren.

He volunteered for service in the Confederate Army and joined the 22nd Texas Infantry, which was commanded by Col. Richard B. Hubbard. He was appointed Quartermaster, but would later advance to the rank of captain by the end of the war. He would see combat in the battles of Mansfield, LA, Pleasant Hill, LA and numerous other engagements. In 1864, while still serving in the field and without his knowledge or consent, he was elected District Attorney for the Old East Texas Judicial Division. Following the war, he would serve a 2nd term as District Attorney and later practice law. Gary Elementary was named in his honor. His son, Hampson Gary, would also practice law in Tyler and go on to work for the U.S. State Department, become a well-known international diplomat and later write 1942 the *History of Tyler and Smith County*.

#14 – Captain Richard B. Long (CSA)

Richard Long was born in 1817 in Marshall Co., Tennessee. His father was a colonel in Andrew Jackson's army at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. Married in 1840, he and his family would move to Smith Co. in 1850. A farmer by trade, he was elected Smith Co. sheriff in 1854. Two years later he would become District Clerk. When the War Between the States broke out, he would help raise Company B of the 11th Texas Infantry, which was commanded by Gen. Oran M. Roberts. His men considered Captain Long to be an excellent officer and a good soldier. His oldest son James, at age 17, enlisted in the Douglas Texas Battery and also served throughout the war. Following the war, he would serve as the Federal Postmaster under President Grover Cleveland.

#15 – Hugh Wiley Chadwick (USA)

Hugh Chadwick came to Tyler following his retirement from a successful business career at the relatively young age of 45. He was known to have honorably served in the Union Army during the War Between the States. Unlike much of the South, the Tyler community was accepting of this "Illinois Yankee" when he moved here in the 1870s. As mannerly as any southern gentleman, he resided on Oscar Street in North Tyler. He drilled a 90' deep water well on his property that was the talk of the town and would later sell some property for home sites that shared in his ample water supply. Following his death in 1909, and his wife's death in 1914, their daughter Dana would reside in the family home another 50 years until her own death 1965.

#16 – Ensign George H. Wood (US Navy)

George H. Wood was born in 1838 in Buffalo, NY. The son of a ship builder, he went to sea as a young man and sailed around the world on merchant vessels. At the outbreak of the war, he enlisted in the Union Navy and was assigned to the *USS Wabash* a modern steam frigate that was the flagship of the Southern Atlantic Blockading Squadron. He participated in the capture of Hatteras Island, Port Royal, Fort Pulaski and San Augustine, FL. In April 1862, he was promoted to Masters Mate and assigned to a captured schooner, the *USS America*, renamed so because it was the original yacht *America* that had won what later became the first America's Cup race in England in 1841. After serving a year on the *America* in blockade duty, he was promoted to Ensign and assigned to the *USS Seneca*, a 90-day gunboat. Following a year on the *Seneca*, he was briefly assigned to the *USS Tunxis*, a Monitor-class ironclad and then to the *USS Chippewa*, another 90-day gunboat from which he would participate in the attack on Fort Fisher, leading a ground assault by Marines from his ship, and the capture of Richmond.

Following the war, he would become involved in railroading and related businesses. He and his family moved to Tyler in 1892 where he headed the Wrecking Department of the Cotton Belt RR. Three of his sons would also work for the Cotton Belt, all in accounting positions.

#17 – Captain William S. Herndon (CSA)

William Herndon was in Rome, GA in 1835. At age 17 his family settled in Wood County where he helped work the family farm. He graduated from college in 1859 and joined the Texas Rangers and spent time fighting Indians. Self-taught on the law, he was admitted to the bar in 1860 and began a practice in Tyler. At the war's outbreak, he volunteered for duty and was assigned as a first lieutenant with the 13th Texas Infantry. In 1862, he was promoted to captain and assigned to an artillery battery. Recognized for his capability, he was named master of the drill service and trained the 13th Texas Infantry military tactics. Following the war, he returned to Tyler, established a partnership with Judge John C. Robertson and practiced law for many years. Much of his legal work was on behalf of numerous rail road companies, including the Tyler Tap RR. He was elected to two terms in Congress during the 1870s and remained a dedicated supporter of many local civic endeavors.