

OUR EVANS FAMILY IN THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

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My Uncle Harper Evans says he remembers his great grandfather sitting on the porch on South Main St in Jonesboro, GA. He says his great grandfather did not have anything to do with the children and did not say much. By then, the early 1920's, my great- great grandfather, James Franklin Evans was in his 80's. Born on 12/6/1841 he had married Angeline Mazurah Cannon in Walton County, GA 9/20/1860 . A young farmer, starting a family probably did not want to go to war. But, his 3 brothers had already gone before him and by June 1864 he left his wife and baby boys to enlist in the Confederate States of America Army in Macon, GA.

James Franklin Evans was in Co "B" 5th Regt of the Georgia Infantry. By Nov/Dec 1864 records show him in the hospital and his pension records state he was in the hospital in Charleston, SC at the time of surrender and was paroled in Atlanta, GA. When he made it back home after the War, the farm was in ruins. He was in bad health and it was said he suffered the effects of the War for the rest of his life. In the 1880's he followed his oldest son, Thomas Augustus Evans to Jonesboro, Clayton County, GA and had farm land there. He died 1/27/1927. He and his wife are buried in the Jonesboro City Cemetery.

Great great grandpa Evans' oldest brother was Thomas L Evans, born 7/4/1830 and at age 33 he enlisted 8/1/1863 in Atlanta in the Capt. Witts Company of Georgia Express Infantry for a 6 month term for local defense of Atlanta. He had married Sarah Elizabeth Higginbotham in 1857. She was born 2/9/1838 and died 12/25/1901. He died 1/14/1914 and they are both buried at Walnut Grove United Methodist Church in Walton County, GA.

Next brother was William A Evans, born 8/21/1834 and died 11/10/1902. He had married Malissa A Phillips Oct 28, 1856 . Enlisting 3/8/1862 in Decatur, GA in Co "C" Cobb's Legion, Georgia Infantry he served as a 1st Lieut. William was injured when run over by a horse at the Battle of Port Royal, VA in August 1863. He was then promoted to Ensign and captured at Shenandoah, VA on Aug 16, 1864 taken to Port Royal, VA and on to old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. He was paroled at Fort Delaware Oct 6, 1864 and transferred to Pt. Lookout, Maryland for prisoner exchange on Oct 11, 1864. William continued fighting until once again he was captured on April 6, 1865 at Sailor's Creek, VA and sent to Headquarters April 12, 1865 before being sent on to Old Capitol Prison April 14, 1865. He was then sent to Johnson's Island arriving at Depot Prison near Sandusky, Ohio on April 19, 1865. He took the Oath of Allegiance at Sandusky, Ohio on June 18, 1865. The War over, he returned to his residence in Lithonia, GA. He died Nov 10, 1902 in DeKalb County, GA.

John F Evans was born 1835 and married Thenev Jones in 1858. He enlisted 4/3/1862 in Atlanta in Co "H" 2nd Regt GA Cavalry. He was captured at Panther Springs near Knoxville, TN 12/18/1863 and taken as prisoner of war to Louisville, KY 1/21/1864. On the 23rd he was sent to Rock Island, Ill Prison and died of variola in the Rock Island Barracks Feb 15 1864.. He is buried in the Rock Island Confederate Cemetery, grave #496.

This is the impact on just one family. Four brothers –one cause.

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