

# Covenanter Soldiers' Record of Oakdale, Ill.

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Record of Oakdale, Ill. for members of the congregation who served in the Civil War.

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### More Chips Off the Old Cameronian Block.

Alexander Smellie in his great book, "The Men of the Covenant," writing of Richard Cameron, tells the story of the Sanquhar Declaration. "It was the 22d of June, 1680. The ancient burg of Sanquhar was startled by the appearance of twenty men on horseback, who rode slowly up the main street, with swords drawn and pistols in their hands. When they arrived at the market, two of them dismounted and walked to the cross, while the rest formed a circle round and the inhabitants flocked to the spot. The two who had dismounted were Richard Cameron and his brother Michael. A Psalm was sung; a prayer was offered; after which Michael read a paper. It was the Sanquhar Declaration."

To quote it in full would occupy too much space, but these are the closing words of the Declaration: "We, being under the standard of our Lord Jesus Christ, Captain of Salvation, do declare war with such a tyrant and usurper (Charles Stuart), and all the men of his practices, as enemies to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Cross and Covenants."

A few weeks after this declaration of war came the battle of Ayrsmoss. "Michael," said Richard to his brother, "This is the day I have longed for, and the death that I prayed for, to die fighting against the Lord's enemies."

After the slaughter of the little band before the superior number of the enemy, the hands of Richard were cut off and carried to his father, old Allen Cameron, then in prison, "to add grief to his sorrow." "Do you know them?" they asked. He took them upon his knee, bent over them, and kissed them, saying, "I know them! I know them! They are my son's, my dear son's." And then weeping and yet praising, he went on, "It is the Lord! Good is the will of the Lord, who cannot wrong me nor mine, but has made goodness and mercy to follow us all our days."

Such were the Camerons, when tyrants roused the lion that was in them. And such are their true spiritual descendants, free born and with iron in their blood. A part, staying on that side of the Atlantic, have had no small part in securing the liberties of England, and a part, crossing to this side, have labored to make ours a free and Christian America. The following addition may be made to their honor roll:

#### Los Angeles, Cal.

Robert F. Boyd, 33rd Iowa,  
John W. Wylie, 15th Ohio.

#### First Newburgh, N. Y.

William Cummings,  
James Hannah,  
Nathaniel Fleming,  
Nathaniel Jackson,  
Thomas Rodman,  
William Ammerman,  
Luke Jackson,  
Andrew Ross,  
James Devaney.

#### New Alexandria, Pa.

D. O. Brown, 1st Lieut., Acting Capt.,  
Robert Brown,  
John Brown,  
R. R. Beattie,  
S. P. Beattie,  
John Beattie,  
John Hays,  
Samuel Dornon,  
Joseph Dornon,  
R. J. Patterson,  
Samuel Jack,  
S. O. Lowry,  
George Lindsay,  
Thomas A. Sproull,  
Robert Paisley,  
Wm. Paisley,  
J. N. Du Shane,

J. M. Du Shane, Capt.,  
Alexander Cannon,  
John Patchell,  
Andrew Steel,  
James Monroe,  
Matthew Denholm,  
William Workman, Corporal,  
J. R. Johnston,  
Cameron Elder,  
Henry Temple.  
*Winchester, Kansas.*  
James A. Houston, 20th Ind. Light Artillery,  
Thomas E. French, 152 Ind.,  
Thomas Dunn,  
David Logan, 117th Ind., 145th Ind.  
Henry Downie,  
John H. Curry, 133rd Ind.,  
James A. Russell, 82nd Ind.,  
John Douthett,  
David S. Faris, 117th Ind., 145th Ind., 133rd Ind.,  
John Stuart, 10th Missouri, 2nd Reg. Ind., U. S. Army Corps.  
James F. Curry, 54th Ind., 117th Ind., Sergt. 145th Ind.  
*Union Congregation, additional.*  
John A. Forsythe,  
John Forsythe,  
John H. Douthett,  
Josiah R. Dodds,  
William J. Dodds, died at City Point,  
S. R. Renfrew, killed at Winchester under Sheridan.  
*New Concord, Ohio.*

### Covenanter Soldiers' Record of Oakdale, Ill.

Covenanters in Southern Illinois felt the heat of the Anti-Slavery conflict more perhaps than in any other section of the Church. Being so near two slave states, Missouri on one side, and Kentucky on the other, many Covenanters became conductors on the Underground Railroad, and their cellars and barns became the depots and waiting rooms for the fugitive slaves from both states. In those days many a Covenanter in the darkness of night started out from the vicinity of our old church on Elkhorn Prairie, with his covered wagon loaded to the guards with fleeing slaves. With the North Star as his guide, he would land his passengers before daylight in the friendly cellar of some other "Black Abolitionist" near Hoylton or Richview. The first settlers of this part of Illinois were Covenanters, who were driven from the South because of their hatred of slavery; and an opposite element from Kentucky and Tennessee, who, like the "Border Ruffians" of Kansas, were determined to make Illinois a slave state. For many years before the war, there was bitter contention between these two elements, and the Covenanters were subjected to much persecution. Was it strange, then, when the war came, that the sons of these liberty loving pioneers felt impelled to enter the army, that they might improve the opportunity to strike down slavery? We believe that no Covenanter congregation can furnish as large a list of soldiers in the Civil War as Oakdale. The pastor, Rev. A. C. Todd, went as Captain of a company composed largely of young men of his congregation. They often speak of the scene at the old church, when Captain Todd and his company were leaving for the battlefield. There were few eyes not suffused with tears, as they made the grove resound with the melody of that grand old battle Psalm, sang to the tune, "Cowper":

"Jehovah hear thee in the day  
When trouble He doth send:  
And let the name of Jacob's God  
Thee from all ill defend."

They parted that day from many who never returned alive, but most of their bodies were sent home, and now sleep in the old church yard.

The following is our Roll of Honor:

Rev. A. C. Todd, Captain Co G, 10th Mo., Deceased.  
D. W. McClurkin, Captain Co. G., 10th Mo.  
Alexander Caldwell, M. D., First Sergeant Co. F., 10th Mo., Late of the Jewish Mission, Philadelphia, Deceased.  
Elder Andrew T. Kennedy, Sergeant Co. F., 10th Mo. Wounded and taken prisoner at Jackson, Miss. May 14, 1864, Deceased.  
Elder John Boyd, Sergeant Co. F., 10th Mo. Wounded and taken prisoner at Jackson, Miss., May 14, 1863.  
John J. Torrens, Sergeant Co. F., 10th Mo.  
Archibald Hood, Sergeant Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Thomas Luney, Corporal Co. F., 10th Mo.  
S. P. Williamson, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Thomas McClurkin, Corporal Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Thomas Meichen, Corporal Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Barney Donohue, Drummer, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Samuel Keady, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
Moses Keady, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
John Luney, Co. F., 10th Mo., Wounded at Champion Hills, Miss., May 23, 1863, Deceased.  
Samuel M. McCloy, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
Rev. D. G. Thompson, Ohio Volunteers, Deceased.  
C. F. S. McClurkin, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
John McLean, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
William Miller, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
William McNair, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
J. R. McClurkin, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
J. C. McClurkin, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
James Rainey, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
James N. Ramsey, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Alexander H. Sloane, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Captain John C. Kennedy, Co. G., 13th Ill. Cavalry.  
Samuel G. Williamson, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Deacon Robert Luney, Co. G., 13th Ill. Cavalry.  
Deacon James M. Torrens, Co. I., 80th Ill. wounded at Perryville, October 9, 1862.  
James H. Hunter, Co. F., 80th Ill.  
Elder James R. Morrison, Co. F., 80th Ill., Deceased.  
Andrew Cook, Co. F., 80th Ill., Deceased.  
Elder David Duguid, Co. K., 129th Ind.  
Charles McElhinney, Co. D., 48th Ill.  
Thomas G. McLean, Co. I., 30th Ill.  
Deacon John Piper, Co. B., 111th Ill., wounded at Kenesaw Mountain June 27, 1864, and taken prisoner.  
James H. Sloane, Co. B., 136th Ill.  
Robert Kelso, Co. I., 80th Ill.  
James Kelso, Co. G., 13th Ill. Cavalry.  
John Montgomery, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
Robert McElhinney, Co. G., 13th Ill. Cavalry, Deceased.  
James Dermond, Co. G., 13th Ill. Cavalry, Deceased.  
D. W. Wylie, Ohio Volunteers.  
J. W. Wylie, Ohio Volunteers.  
John Donaldson, Co. F., 10th Mo., Deceased.  
Andrew McClurkin, Co. G., 146th Ill.  
Rev. John Hood, Captain Co. F., 80th Ill., taken prisoner at Rome, Ga., and confined at Libby until the war closed, Deceased.  
James R. Sharp, Co. F., 10th Mo.  
Kennedy Hood, Captain of a New York Regiment.

[The above excellent list of Covenanter veterans was compiled by Elder John Boyd and Deacon John Piper of the Oakdale, Ill., Congregation.]

This list of fifty veterans of the Civil War who at one time and another have been connected with our congregation, are now widely scattered. The few who remain with us keep up a close comradeship by meetings on Memorial Day, and for years have met at an annual January dinner. Many of them are growing feeble. At the last dinner only the unlucky number "13" were able to be present. Elder James R. Morrison, who has been hovering for several weeks on the brink of the grave, expressed his interest in the proposal of the New Concord C. E. to publish a list of our Covenanter veterans, but he remarked, "Why was it not done sooner?" Yes, if we have prayers and kind words for these veterans, let us not put it off till it is too late.

Oakdale, Ill.