

C I V I L   W A R   S T O R I E S   A B O U T   A N C E S T O R S  
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I was talking with my son, Gary, several years ago and the subject of Sherman's march to the sea during the American Civil War came up. Whether this march was accompanied by much actual pillaging, raping, and burning, appears to be somewhat in doubt. But, some of our ancestors have left us with stories about the Civil War, and their lives were certainly touched by the events that took place. As I pursue my interest in family history and genealogy, I find several instances of men who were injured or killed in that terrible war.

Some of the following accounts have been reported earlier in these family history vignettes. I indulge in repetition to make the point that our ancestors were a part of the Civil War.

Jesse Turner Rogers, a rifleman in the Army of the Confederate States of America from North Carolina, is a great-great-great-great-grandfather of my grandchildren. He was a poor man, the father of ten children, who had no economic interest in the outcome of the War. But he was conscripted by his southern state and had to fight a war for a purpose in which he did not necessarily believe. He died in battle at Spotsylvania, Virginia, after being struck in the head by a "minie-ball," a projectile fired from a Union Army rifle.

Robert Baskin Haynie, a poor farmer, and a Confederate Army hostler (caretaker of army horses and mules), is a great-great-great-grandfather of my grandchildren. He sustained injuries during the War and we don't know much about them. However, they were serious enough that he died a premature death as a result of them several years after the War.

James Hazlett Jack, a great-great-great-grandfather of my grandchildren, was a native of the Deep South who served as a Union Army spy in Confederate territory during the War. He suffered the rest of his life, and probably died a premature death, from the injuries he sustained when he was shot in the back by a Confederate Army soldier as he swam across a river carrying important intelligence papers to his Union Army superiors.

Cornelius Jasper Stover, another great-great-great-grandfather of my grandchildren, was another native of the South who served in the Union Army. He was a calvaryman and was injured during the War. He suffered pain the rest of his life from his injuries which caused him to limp distinctly.

All of our ancestors who lived in the United States during the American Civil War were affected by it in one way or another. Their experiences and how they were affected by them would be very interesting to us today. But, they made few, if any, records, and about all we have are stories they recounted during their lives which have been passed down to us as oral history.

I remember my grandfather, Robert Milligan Haynie, who was just a toddler during the War, tell of an incident in his home, which involved a Union Army soldier. A group of Union Army soldiers

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came to his home in northern Georgia (perhaps during Sherman's march to the sea), demanding food which his mother provided from her meager pantry. One of the soldiers spotted a bugle hanging on the wall. Taking it down, he tried to play it and, failing to do so, he smashed it against a tree stump and completely demolished it. Destructive happenings like that leave a lasting impression on a little boy, and my grandfather remembered it all his life.

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