

Killed in Action

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Since the earliest Europeans arrived in what is now Union Parish, young male residents have answered the call to defend their homes, state, and country. The Civil War, known to many Southerners as the “*War Between the States*,” remains the conflict during which the largest number of Union Parish soldiers perished, both in battle and from disease. This is a series of biographical sketches of Union Parish soldiers who were either killed in action or mortally wounded on battlefields across the South during the Civil War.

Private Jayne Henry W. Auld – Co. E, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

Jayne Auld and his first cousin enlisted together in the summer of 1861 in the “*Stars of Equality*.” After training at Camp Moore, they saw action during the Siege of Jackson and Battles of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh), Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and the opening stages of the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. His regiment fought at the Battle of Mill Creek Gap on May 8–11, followed by the Battle of Resaca on May 14–15. Auld was killed in action while serving with his regiment on the second day of Resaca. Jayne Auld was twenty-one years old.

Private Joseph M. Auld – Co. I, 12th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

A resident of the Louter Bottom area east of Farmerville, Auld enlisted along with two brothers, his uncle, and first cousin in the “*Farmer Guards*” in early 1861. After training at Camp Moore, Auld went with his Regiment to Kentucky to garrison Columbus in late 1861, then to New Madrid and Island No. 10, followed by service in Mississippi and Port Hudson. Auld’s Regiment fought at the Battle of Corinth in October 1862 and helped garrison Port Hudson against the Federal naval bombardment on 14 March 1863.

After traveling to Atlanta, the men immediately returned to Mississippi in an attempt to defeat a Yankee cavalry raid. They then went to Port Gibson, near the Mississippi River. On 16 May 1863, Auld’s regiment fought at the Battle of Baker’s Creek (Champion Hill), the pivotal battle that resulted in the Confederate Army retreating into Vicksburg, thus initiating the Siege. Auld’s regiment successfully covered the Confederate Army’s retreat from the Baker’s Creek battlefield, but Auld suffered severe wounds in the action. The nature of his wounds prevented his comrades from rescuing him from the battlefield, and either died on the battlefield as the Confederate Army retreated or soon afterwards. Joseph Auld was twenty-four years old.

Private Milton L. Barron – Co. C, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

Born in Alabama, Milton moved to the Camp Creek community south of Spearsville in 1852 with his family. He enlisted in the fall of 1861 and served with his unit during the Battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh) in April 1862 and at Farmington in May, as well as the Siege of Jackson in July 1863. Barron was wounded in the action at the Battle of Chickamauga, a significant Confederate victory. He received a furlough to recover from his injuries and returned to duty within a few months. In mid-summer 1864, Barron's regiment belonged to the Army of Tennessee under General Hood, then attempting to stop Union General Sherman's march across Georgia. Hood's army attacked the Yankees at the Battle of Ezra Church on 28 July 1864 and suffered a serious defeat. Barron suffered a gunshot wound in this action and died on the battlefield. Milton Barron was twenty-eight years old.

Sergeant Angus G. Calhoun – Co. E, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

A resident of Downsville, Angus enlisted in the Confederate service in March 1862. He was severely wounded in his right arm at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, and he spent the next four months recovering in a hospital. He learned to shoot his gun with his left hand and continued to serve as orderly sergeant upon returning to duty in January 1864. After serving with his unit throughout the battles of the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, he joined in the charge by the Confederate forces at Lovejoy Station on 20 August 1864. Angus G. Calhoun was thirty years old.

Private Malcolm Calhoun – Co. E, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

A resident of Downsville, despite his status as a married man with children to feed and a farm to operate, Malcolm Calhoun enlisted in the summer of 1861 in the "*Stars of Equality*," and headed to Camp Moore to train that fall. His unit was sent to the front early in 1862 to help face General Grant's Union Army headed south towards Pittsburg Landing. On the first day of the bloody Battle of Shiloh, April 6th, 1862, Malcolm Calhoun was killed in action. He was thirty-eight years old.

Captain Allen M. Callaway – Co. A, 6th Louisiana Infantry Regiment.

A native of Alabama, Allen M. Callaway followed the Gold Rush to California with his brother in the late 1840s. In 1850, he mined for gold in El Dorado County, California. Sometime in the 1850s, Callaway returned east and settled in the Downsville area with his brother, Larkin C. Callaway. Union Parish citizens elected Callaway as their sheriff in the latter 1850s, and he held this position until the spring of 1861, when he resigned to enlist in the "*Union and Sabine Rifles*,"

a company of men from Union and Sabine Parishes who joined the Confederate service at Camp Moore in June 1861. The company's troops elected Callaway as their 1st Lieutenant.

After training, the men went to Virginia and joined General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's Brigade. They participated in his 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. In May, the company's commanding officer, Captain Arthur McArthur, was promoted to Major, prompting the company to elect Callaway as their captain. Capt. Callaway received his captain's commission on May 8th. Callaway led his men through numerous battles that summer, including Battle of Port Republic (June 9), Hundley's Corner (June 26), Gaines' Mill (June 27), Bristoe Station (August 26), Kettle Run (August 27), 2nd Bull Run (August 29-30), and Chantilly (September 1). Capt. Callaway's men saw heavy fighting at the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam) on September 17th, regarded as the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. Capt. Callaway was killed in action at Sharpsburg. He was thirty-three years old.

Lt. William J. Clark (Buck Clark)– Co. E, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

A son of Shiloh's Dr. John R. Clark, William J. Clark farmed near Shiloh until 1861. In the summer of 1861, he enlisted in the "Stars of Equality," later Co. E, 19th Regiment Infantry, and the men elected him as their 1st Lieutenant. After training at Camp Moore with the men, he served in the heat of the action of the Hornet's Nest at Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh in April 1862, where he was severely wounded. He remained on sick leave recovering until September. After returning to duty, he served with the 19th Regiment in all its actions through July 1864. As Confederate forces attempted to stop Union Gen. Sherman's march across Georgia, Clark's regiment belonged to the Army of Tennessee under General Hood, and they attacked the Federal troops at the Battle of Ezra Church on 28 July 1864, where Lt. Clark was killed in action.

Private Joseph C. Clayton – Co. C, 17th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

Born in Mississippi, he moved to the Spearsville region about 1845. Joe enlisted in the "Phoenix Rifles" in mid-summer 1861, and after training at Camp Moore and a serious bout of measles that fall, in 1862 his regiment saw action at Shiloh in April and then helped garrison Vicksburg for the remainder of the year. In late December, Joe's company was ordered to advance through the swamps as the lead pickets to detect enemy troop movements as Union General William T. Sherman's forces began their attempt to take Vicksburg by land. Two days later, as the Federal soldiers emerged from the swamps and began their assault on the Confederate entrenchments at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou on 27 December 1862, Clayton admonished his comrades, "...come on boys who is afraid of the Yankees." A few moments later, as the Union artillery

opened up a barrage on the Confederate forces, "...a six pound cannon ball struck him in the eye and tore off one side of his head. He never knew what killed him, for he never breathed." Joe Clayton was nineteen years old.

Lt. Col. Sidney H. Griffin – Co. I, 31st Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

Union Parish citizens elected Spearsville planter Sidney H. Griffin as one of their representatives to the January 1861 Secession Convention held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After casting his vote for Louisiana to secede from the Union, Griffin returned to Louisiana and focused on the operation of his plantation. In early 1862, he raised a company of soldiers from the Spearsville area who took the moniker of the "*Sparrow Cadets*," and the men of the company elected Griffin as their captain. The Sparrow Cadets entered the Confederate service in March at Monroe as part of the 31st Regiment, and the troops elected Captain Griffin as their Lieutenant Colonel.

The men trained near Trenton (near West Monroe) for most of the summer and then operated in northeastern Louisiana until ordered to Jackson, Mississippi in November. In late December they participated in the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, helping to repulse the assault by Federal troops under Gen. W. T. Sherman. The 31st Regiment garrisoned Vicksburg for the next several months, but as the Union Army began their next campaign to take Vicksburg, Col. Griffin and the 31st saw action at the Battle of Port Gibson on May 1 and later helped cover the Confederate Army's retreat into the defenses of Vicksburg. The regiment helped to repulse General Grant's two major assaults on May 19th and 22nd and then fought in the trenches during the Siege.

On June 26, the men of the 31st Regiment engaged in heavy skirmishing with the enemy all day. The fighting died down on the 27th, a cloudy and very warm day. Sometime during the day, Col. Sidney H. Griffin peered over the top of the trench to observe the enemy troop movements, and he apparently raised his head too high. A Yankee sharpshooter spotted Griffin and put a miniball into his head, killing him instantly. Col. Griffin was twenty-nine years old.

Private Abner B. Hinton – Co. E, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

A resident of Downsville, Abner enlisted in the summer of 1861 in the "*Stars of Equality*." After training at Camp Moore, he saw action at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh) in April 1862. Between May and August, he was assigned to drive teams of wagons hauling army equipment near Chattanooga, but he rejoined his unit in September 1862, seeing action during the Siege of Jackson and Battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and the opening stages of the 1864

Atlanta Campaign. His regiment fought at the Battle of Mill Creek Gap on May 8–11, followed by the Battle of Resaca on May 14–15. In mid-summer 1864, Hinton's unit helped to stop Union General Sherman's march across Georgia. The Confederate army attacked the Yankees at the Battle of Ezra Church on 28 July 1864 and suffered a serious defeat. Hinton was killed in action and died on the Ezra Church battlefield. Abner B. Hinton was twenty-three years old.

Private James R. Gilbert – Co. A, 6th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

Gilbert was born in Lowndes County, Alabama about 1837 and was a nephew of Union Parish's first Parish Judge, John Taylor. He enlisted in the spring of 1861 with his brothers, Thomas F. and Richard M. Gilbert, and first cousin, James A. Dean, in the "*Union and Sabine Rifles*," later Co. A, 6th Louisiana Infantry. The men entered the Confederate service at Camp Moore on 4 June 1861 and immediately went to the front lines in Virginia. Gilbert's unit was assigned to the Stonewall Brigade during the Shenandoah Campaign of 1862, where he participated in all of the battles through September. On 1 September 1862, Gen. Stonewall Jackson attempted to cut off the retreat of the Union Army following their defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Two Union divisions attacked Jackson's men, and in the ensuing Battle of Chantilly, James R. Gilbert was seriously wounded. He spent the next five months in a Richmond, Virginia hospital recovering, but he died on 4 February 1863 after contracting smallpox in the hospital. James R. Gilbert was twenty-six years old.

Sergeant Thomas J. Oliver Jr. – Co. E, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

A native of Georgia, Thomas J. Oliver settled with his parents near Shiloh in the latter 1850s. In about November 1861, he traveled to south Louisiana and enlisted in the "*Stars of Equality*," Co. E, 19th Regiment Infantry on 11 December 1861. He served at the Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing), and on 12 May 1862, he was appointed 1st sergeant. His younger brother, Andrew J. Oliver, enlisted in the same unit in September 1862 at the age of about fifteen. The Oliver brothers were both present for duty at all times throughout 1862 and 1863. The 19th Regiment participated in the heavy fighting at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18–20, 1863. Sgt. Thomas J. Oliver was killed in action at the age of twenty-two years, while his brother was severely wounded at the age of sixteen year. Andrew J. Oliver recovered and returned to duty for the duration of the conflict.

Private Jonathan W. Upshaw – Co. D, 4th Battalion Louisiana Infantry.

Born in Georgia, Jonathan moved to the Camp Creek community south of Spearsville about 1855 with his mother and brothers. He and his brother, William Elisha Upshaw, originally

enlisted in the "*Yankee Pelters*," a unit raised in Union Parish by Larkin C. Callaway, but subsequently disbanded after arriving at Camp Moore. Remaining there, the Upshaw brothers enlisted with men from Carroll Parish in the 4th Louisiana Battalion. After service in western Virginia, the battalion was ordered to James Island, South Carolina, to defend Charleston. On 16 June 1862, Federal troops attacked in their only attempt to take Charleston by land. Known as the Battle of Secessionville, the Confederate forces managed to prevail after an intense struggle. Jonathan Upshaw suffered a severe leg wound during the battle, with the doctors amputating the limb afterwards. He lingered until July 18th, when he perished in a Charleston hospital. Jonathan W. Upshaw was twenty-two years old.

