



# Pearl Webb Cemetery Newsletter

Designed by Paul Sullivan

Issue VIII Spring 2009

## History & Facts

By: June Burks

### Civil War Soldiers

In the past few Pearl Webb Cemetery Newsletters, we have featured the early doctors of this area, who are buried in this cemetery. We also featured Canmer's undertaker, Mr. John Weller.

We will now start a series of articles on the U.S. soldiers who fought in the many wars, in which this country has been involved - beginning with the Civil War soldiers and coming forward with the men who served in other wars.

The Civil War, fought here on our own soil, was a very cruel war (as are all wars). It has been said that in this war, brother fought against brother and father against son. Families were divided. Some were sympathetic with the north while others were sympathetic with the south. But, no matter if you favored the Union or the Confederate, you have to honor and respect these brave men.

This article will spotlight two Civil War soldiers, Mr. Ambrose Lee King II and Mr. John Peter Ray, both serving for the north.

### Ambrose Lee King II

Mr. King served in the Union Army Calvary Co. B. 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment and also with the 30<sup>th</sup> Regiment Co. A. Later, he served in the infantry of the 14<sup>th</sup> KY Calvary Regiment Co. G, which served in Eastern, KY and fought against the guerillas. The 14<sup>th</sup> had

fourteen men killed. The 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment had 5 men killed.

Mr. King was born in Hart County in 1838. His father was Ambrose Lee King I, who was born in Beford County, VA, Feb 3, 1803 and died Oct. 1, 1838. He is buried in the Elijah Moss Cemetery in Hart County. His mother was Louise Willis Markham. His parents were married Jan 31, 1825. Ambrose Lee King II's grandparents were John and Jennie (Eubanke) King.

Our subject, Ambrose Lee King II, first married Mollie Hodges. They had two children - Bulah and Wm. Porterfield. His second marriage was to Mary Alice Morris on March 7, 1878. They had nine children - Mary L., Morris, Verda, Sanford, Leslie, Frank, James (Jim), who married Lenora Wilson, David and Landreth.

Mr. King died July 27, 1912 and was buried the next day, July 28, 1912, by Canmer undertaker, John Weller.



Many of us in the Canmer community have fond memories of several members of the King family, especially Mr. Jim, "Miss" Lenora, Les, and Morris. For many years, they were contributing, active members of this small community of Canmer.

**John Peter  
(Whizer) Ray**  
1844 - 1917



John Peter Ray, a Virginian, left that state in the latter part of the 1800's and moved to Kentucky. His parents were John D. Ray (born 1812) and Susan Emma Brewer (born about 1811). She was the daughter of Edmund Brewer and Francis (Poole) Brewer of Tennessee. John P. had bothers named Bud, Bill, Larkin, and George, also one sister called Sis.

John P. married a Miss Nancy J. Hudgins. After marriage, they first lived in Green County in the Brush Creek community. But, before marriage, he was a Civil War soldier. He was a Union soldier - a Pvt. in Co. A - 13<sup>th</sup> KY Infantry.

As a young man, he was very adventurous and decided to go west, as many young couples did. After hearing that the government was giving homesteads in Missouri to anyone that would come west, they loaded a little furniture, clothing, food, and their hound dog and headed west (by way of covered



wagon) to start a new life and seek their fortune. When they arrived, a big disappointment awaited them! There was nothing but wasteland and nothing with which to build a house. So, in about a week, they headed back to Kentucky - back home to Green County. On their way home, they lost their dog, but in about three weeks, after arriving home, their dog showed up! He, too, had found his way home!

They soon decided to move to Hart County to the small, but growing village of Canmer. Here they were happy and chose this as their permanent home - rearing and educating their children here.

John P. and Mrs. Ray were the parents of six children:

1. Henry Shoddy Ray, b. 1871 m. Melissa Reynolds
2. James Doran (Crow) Ray, b. Sept 23, 1872 and Married Betty Pryer.
3. Lonza F. Ray, b. Sept. 28 1875 m. Anna Elizabeth Reynolds.
4. Mattie Ray, b. June 22, 1881 m. Wm. Adair Blakey.
5. Blaine Ray, b. Sept. 9, 1884 m. Georgia Hunter
6. Lena Ray, b. Aug 17, 1889 M. James Luther Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. Ray recognized the importance of their children getting a good education. So, after finishing their early years of schooling, the girls were sent to the Lillian Academy in Canmer. This school was operated by Mr. and Mrs.

Sam Durham and was known as a wonderful "finishing" school for the young ladies of the day. Many subjects were taught here, including music and art. It was located on the north end of Canmer. Young ladies came from everywhere, boarded here and got a good education. Two of the Ray daughters, Mattie and Lena were fortunate enough to attend this school and each received a teacher's certificate from this school. The three older boys were sent away to a boy's school located at Upton. They also received teaching certificates from that school.

Mr. John P. was a postmaster at Canmer for several years, serving from 11-16-07 through 07-30-14. His son, Blaine, was also postmaster for a few years serving from 10-14-27 through 4-11-34. Then in later years, Blaine's daughter, Georgia would serve in the same capacity - 8-1-53 until her death.

Mr. Blaine was county school superintendent for four years (1910-1914). Georgia was a home economic teacher at Memorial School for many years and was married to Mr. Jeff Callahan, an agriculture teacher for many years at Memorial and Hart County High School.

Mr. Ray was born in Va, Feb. 22, 1844 and died in Canmer Feb. 28, 1917. Mrs. Nancy J. Hudgins Ray was born, March 1, 1852 and died in Canmer, Jan. 15, 1928. Both are buried in Pearl Webb Cemetery, along with several of their children and grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Ray, as well as, their children and grandchildren contributed much to the Canmer community.



**John P. Ray's Tombstone**  
(The inscription on the stone reads as follows: Rest Soldier Rest, Thy Warfare is Over).

Note: Thanks to Inez Warf of Green County, Deloris Tapp of Linwood and Jean Hedgepeth of Canmer for all the research and information for this article.

**Quote: The brave men seek not honor of men, but does always the best he can.**  
- author unknown

## From the Secretary's Desk:

**By: Peggy Avery**

The flags will be put at each veteran's grave during Memorial Day week. Also, if you know of anyone who is a veteran and we have not put a flag at their grave site, please let someone on the cemetery board know and we will be glad to take care of it.

We will be receiving contributions again this year at the cemetery during Memorial Day weekend for the upkeep of the cemetery. We have received a bid to renovate the cemetery's drives and have applied for a state



grant for assistance. However, even if approved, the grant will not cover the full cost, so keep this in mind when considering your cemetery contribution this year.

## From the Treasurer's Desk

By: Brenda Dudderar

I am happy to report that due to your contributions and interest on our investments, we were able to cover our maintenance expenses last year. However, due to the reduction in interest rates on our investments, we will probably fall short in 2009.

Also, we encountered a severe ice storm this winter, which did a lot of damage to our trees. This resulted in additional expense that we don't usually have at the cemetery.

The cemetery board is very appreciative of your generous contributions over the past years. We depend on your donations for the maintenance of our cemetery.

We also appreciate the nice notes that accompany your donations, especially those that contain family or cemetery information.

## A Nice Piece of Canmer History

by: Paul Sullivan

First let me say, I'm not losing my memory, because I realize we have included this piece of Canmer history in our newsletter before.

However, since I had a little extra space this time and our newsletter is dedicated to the very brave men who fought in the Civil War. I thought the Canmer poem, which is somewhat related to the Civil War, would make a nice addition to this newsletter as well.

My mind is filled with very fond memories of my father, Eursie Lee Sullivan. For those of you who remember my dad, you probably remember him being a very talented public speaker who loved to share his memories & experiences from growing up in Canmer, Kentucky with anyone who would listen. I remember him reciting the following poem numerous times. However, I can't remember who he said the author of the poem was, but it was somebody he remembered from his early days of growing up in Canmer:

### THE CANMER POEM

*Canmer is a beautiful little inland town. Not far from where John Morgan burned the bridge.*

*We've got good folk, plum on out to the Dividing Ridge. We let our neighbors lie down and take their nap, but when they awake they are sure to find, that CANMER is on the map.*

- author unknown,



Those who have been buried at Pearl Webb, since the last newsletter:

Forest Carroll, Jr.  
Ernest Gibson, Jr.  
Robert Hedgepeth



### Pearl Webb Cemetery Board

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James E. Chaney  
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Wyonia Devore  
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Anyone desiring to contribute to the cemetery can do so by sending your tax deductible donation to:

Pearl Webb Cemetery  
c/o Brenda Dudderar  
1945 N. Jackson Hwy  
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Also, anyone wishing to be added to our mailing list, please drop us a note. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to keep the Pearl Webb Cemetery looking beautiful for future generations.

Pearl Webb Cemetery website:

<http://www.so-ky.com/cem/hartcem/p/pearlwebb/index.htm>



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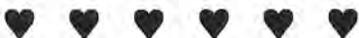
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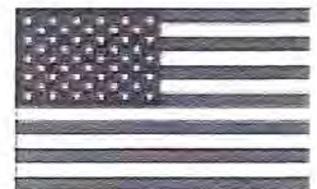
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