



LAST UNION CIVIL WAR SOLDIER BURIED IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY, MN Alvarezze Bicknell Coggeshall

Born on January 13, 1848 in Williamsburg, Wayne County, Indiana to Quaker parents Job

Coggeshall (1795–1882) and Judith Marine Coggeshall (1808–1892), he was their thirteenth child.

When he was 16 years old, he ran away from home and enlisted in the Union Army on April 6, 1864, serving as a Private in Company D of the 57th Indiana Infantry. He was honorably mustered out on December 14, 1865.

The 57th Indiana Infantry joined Sherman's Army at Chattanooga, Tennessee, the following month. Serving with the Army of the Cumberland, he fought in numerous campaigns across Georgia and Tennessee, including Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Marietta, Atlanta, Franklin, and Spring Hill. He volunteered for the Pioneer Company and was promoted to Corporal.

Near Atlanta in August 1864, he contracted typhoid fever and was sent to Hospital No. 3 near Chattanooga. Fearing discovery after having run away from home to enlist, he left the hospital against orders and rejoined his regiment while they guarded the railroad between Chattanooga and Atlanta. The illness permanently damaged the vision in one eye.

He later served in Huntsville, Alabama, spent the winter of 1864–65 in camp there, and in mid-1865 traveled by boat to New Orleans and by ship to Port Lavaca, Texas. Alvarezze was mustered out on December 14, 1865, returning home on New Year's Day 1866. During his service under General

William T. Sherman, he was also present during the Atlanta campaign in which General James B. McPherson was killed.

On August 24, 1870, Alvarezze married Mary Catherine Humrichouse (1847–1922) in Newport, Vermillion County, Indiana. The couple owned a farm there and raised five children: Gracy, James, Edwin, MacPherson (named after General McPherson), and Zuella. Later, their son James moved to a farm near Mapleton, Minnesota, and Alvarezze and Mary relocated to Mankato, where they lived at 520 Byron Street.

Following Mary's death in 1922 and as his health declined, Alvarezze moved to California to live with his son Mac. Later in life, at the request of his children, he wrote two memoirs recounting his remarkable experiences and memories of the Civil War. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Alvarezze Bicknell Coggeshall passed away at the Veteran's Hospital in Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California, on January 29, 1937, at the age of 89. He is buried next to his wife Mary in Glenwood Cemetery in Mankato, MN.

Researched and written by Julie A. Schrader for the Last Union Veteran from Blue Earth County, MN ceremony conducted by SUVCW Col. William Colvill Camp #56 with assistance from the Friends of the Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial on May 16, 2026 in historic Glenwood Cemetery in Mankato.

For more information:

www.boyinblue.org

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