



Courtesy Joe Steck

In October 2024, James Karmany received a headstone at Glenwood Cemetery in a ceremony recognizing Civil War veterans. Fifteen more veterans will be so honored Saturday.

GETTING RECOGNITION

Organizations to honor Civil War veterans at Glenwood

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MANKATO — As it turns out, Glenwood Cemetery still has Civil War soldiers to honor, and several organizations have come together, again, to make sure they are duly remembered.

On Saturday, the historic cemetery will come alive with Civil War re-enactors and organizations presenting a Civil War Union Veteran Headstone Dedication Ceremony and Last Union Veteran in Blue Earth County Ceremony. In total, 15 soldiers will be honored, according to a news release.

In addition to Cpl. Alvarez Bicknell Coggeshall, the last Civil War veteran buried in Blue Earth County, other veterans receiving a headstone are Assistant Surgeon William Wycoff Clark, Private Noah C. Conner, Private William Augustus Coy, Private John Griswold, Sgt. Howard S. Hatch, Private Elijah Howe, Private Wilford Thomas Matthews, Private Niels Peter Nielson, Lt. Col. John F. Robinson, Cpl. Benjamin Franklin Rollins, Maj. Robert Hutchinson Rose, Private Ferdinand Rosenau, Second Lt. George J. Stannard and Private Albert Henry Steifenofer.

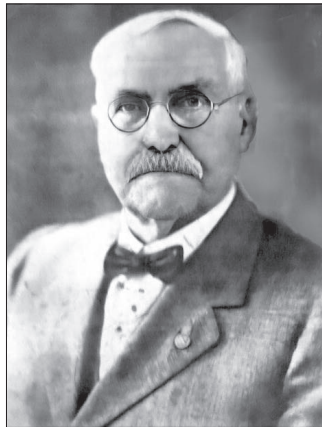
The ceremony will be conducted by the Col. William Colvill Camp 56 Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, with assistance from the Friends of the Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial. These men are brought to life through the research conducted by Julie A. Schrader.

It could be asked what the significance is of performing these ceremonies. In addition to being a fitting tribute for the Union soldier whose service helped preserve the liberties that Americans enjoy today, it also can help fill some familial gaps.

For Doug Damberg of Anchorage, Alaska, that happened while he was researching James Karmany, who was honored here in October 2024 and happens to be Damberg's great-great-grandson.

"I was doing a short writeup this past weekend about what I know about James Karmany for my 90-year-old dad, James' great-great grandson, who lives outside of St. Paul," he wrote in mid-April. "We have limited information about James' Civil War experiences, but enough to have an outline and fill in some of the gaps with information I was able to find online."

Among those found items was a Free Press arti-



Courtesy Phil Coggeshall

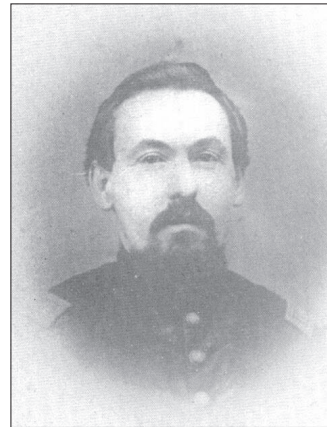
Alvarez Bicknell Coggeshall, the last Civil War veteran buried in Blue Earth County, will be honored with a headstone dedication Saturday in Glenwood Cemetery.

cle put together based on Schrader's information. Damberg has since connected with Schrader to see what else he might glean.

Many online resources exist for such research, with Schrader also utilizing the archives at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. She has created two three-ring binders of obituaries for county residents who fought in the Civil War.

She used American Civil War Research Database, Fold3 and Ancestry, Newspapers.com, Find a Grave, and Family Search, MN Historical Society archives, she said.

"There's always the hope that something found will lead to a name of a living descendant. Sometimes that happens, but not often. That's how I found A.B. Coggeshall's memoir. I contacted someone I found on Ancestry who was researching the same name, though not a direct descendant, and



From "Mankato, Its First Fifty Years"

Assistant Surgeon William Wycoff Clark will be among 14 others honored Saturday. His was the only other photo that researcher Julie Schrader could find.

she was able share it with me," Schrader said.

While the photo she obtained from Phil Coggeshall, which appeared in Coggeshall's edited and reprinted memoir shared with her, is of an older Coggeshall, the information on the event flyer tells of the exploits of a 16-year-old boy who ran away from home and enlisted in the Union Army April 6, 1864. He served just over 18 months as a private in Company D of the 57th Indiana Infantry.

His company joined Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's Army at Chattanooga, Tennessee, his first month. Serving in the Army of the Cumberland, he fought in campaigns across Georgia and Tennessee, including those with fun regional names such as Tunnel Hill, Buzzard Roost, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain Marietta, Atlanta,

See **VETERANS** on D2

VETERANS

CONTINUED FROM D1

Franklin and Spring Hill.

While volunteering for Pioneer Company, after being promoted to corporal, he contracted typhoid fever and was sent to Hospital No. 3 near Chattanooga. Fearful of being found out as being underage, he went against orders and rejoined his regiment while they were guarding the railroad between there and Atlanta. He received permanent vision damage in one eye.

In his remaining time before being mustered out on Dec. 14, 1865, Coggeshall served in Huntsville, Alabama, spending the winter of 1864-65 in camp there, before traveling by boat to New Orleans and by ship to Port Lavaca, Texas, Schrader found.

So, how did a native of Williamsburg, Wayne County, Indiana, end up being buried in a Mankato cemetery?

After marrying Mary Catherine Humrichouse in Newport, Vermillion County, Indiana, on Aug. 24, 1870, they owned a farm and raised five children there: Gracy, James, Edwin, MacPherson (named after General James B. MacPherson, killed in a battle where Coggeshall was present), and Zuella.

Later, their son James moved to a farm near Mapleton, where Coggeshall and Mary relocated. They lived at 520 Byron St., Mankato.

Although he moved to California to live with son Mac after Mary died in 1922, after he passed away at Veteran's Hospital in Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California, on Jan. 29, 1937, at the age of 89, he was buried next to Mary at Glen-

If You Go

What: Civil War Union Veteran Headstone Dedication Ceremony & Last Union Veteran in Blue Earth County Ceremony

When: 1 p.m. Saturday

Where: The site of the large American flag at Glenwood Cemetery, Mankato

Admission: Free and open to the public; wearing of Civil War-era attire is encouraged, but not required

Also participating: American Legion Post 11, VFW Post 950 Veterans Honor Guard, bugler Joe Hoffmann, Bryce Stenzel portraying President Abraham Lincoln, and Civil War re-enactors

wood Cemetery.

At the request of his children, he had written two memoirs recounting his experiences and memories of the Civil War, including being a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, where much of the information on him was found.

The event flyer also includes short biographies of the other soldiers receiving headstones. While stories of some are straightforward and more common for the time — including raising families and, sometimes, like Coggeshall, living to a very old age — others are more unique.

The latter certainly applies to Cpl. Rollins, who is listed

“Then we went to a recruiting office. It was a very large room, 100 feet long by 40 wide with 15 or 20 government clerks along one side. The room was full of men and boys that was standing around waiting to sign their enlistment papers. We had a long wait and when it came my turn, the clerk asked my how old I was. I knew I must lie or go back home. I did not want to go home, so I lied to the clerk. I told him I was 18 years old. He did not ask me to swear my age. If he had I think I would have told him I could not do that.”

Cpl. Alvarez Bicknell Coggeshall memoir

as a member of “Independent Company, 1st United States Infantry,” and served on both side of the conflict.

“Originally drafted into a Confederate Virginia regiment, he was captured after the Battle of Gettysburg and held as a prisoner of war. After escaping captivity and later serving time in a Union prison camp, he enlisted in the Union Army on October 1, 1863,” Schrader wrote.

Born March 9, 1843, in South Carolina, he settled in Mankato

after the war and worked in the livery and brickmaking trades, Schrader found. In 1913 he attended the Gettysburg reunion, one of only eight survivors from Mankato.

He married a couple of women named Ellen — Ellen York in 1865 and Ellen M. Shepard in 1869 — and died in St. Peter Sept. 3, 1919, at the age of 76.

When he receives his headstone on Saturday, he can continue to rest here with his history fully recognized.

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week 1 answers:

1. a, 2. b, 3. b, 4. e, 5. a, 6. e, 7. b, 8. b, 9. a

10. the prairie

FREE PRESS MEDIA

125 BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY