

## *Goodrich Gospel*

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### **Four Goodrich Union Soldiers Buried at Nashville National Cemetery**

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While planning our itinerary for our trip to Nashville, Tennessee I included a trip to the Nashville National Cemetery. I had discovered there were four Goodrich Union soldiers buried there, Elizur Goodrich, Isaac Goodrich, William Goodrich, and Harvey Goodrich. After much research, I could only connect Elizur in my Goodrich Family tree. There is an Isaac Goodrich in my tree but he is from the American Revolutionary War. This Isaac is from the Civil War and there were errors with his records from ancestry.com. I would later learn there were errors with Elizur's records in ancestry.com too.

We left Flint, Texas on Thursday, October 28, 2010, stayed overnight at a motel in Wheatley, Arkansas and headed for Nashville the next morning after stopping by Graceland in Memphis. We stayed at the Wyndham Nashville Resort northeast of Nashville off exit 12 from Highway 155. Nashville National Cemetery is off exit 14 off Highway 155, so we were close. The cemetery is recorded as being located six miles north of Nashville on the Gallatin Turnpike, also known as Highway 31E, in Madison, Tennessee. The Gallatin Turnpike is not a big Highway like the name implies. The cemetery is directly across the street from another old cemetery and just down the street from where we attended mass at St. Joseph's church on the Saturday before going to the cemetery the following Monday, November 1st.

According to the literature we received from the administration building at the cemetery, Nashville National Cemetery is one of five Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries in Tennessee. The land was ceded by the legislative Act of 1866 and acquired at three different times for a total of 65.5 acres at a total cost of \$10,058.65. Subsequently the cemetery was established as a United States Military Cemetery on January 28, 1867.



The Louisville and Nashville Railroad runs through the cemetery dividing the ground almost in two halves. Easement of right of way to the railroad to perpetuity was granted November 9, 1912.

The stone wall around the cemetery and the limestone archway structure at the front entrance were completed about 1870. The outside gates were installed in 1935. The service building, original construction in 1870 was built to accommodate the mules, carts, and wagons, which were part of the cemetery equipment. The front portion was originally the

stable. From the salvaged materials in 1932, one room and a toilet were added to the left wing of the building. The present flagstaff was erected in September 1944. (I took a picture of the flagstaff with the current 50 stars United States flag.) The present lodge, the third constructed there, was completed in July 1931. The closed porch was added in June 1938. The speaker's rostrum was completed in 1940.

The number of burial places from which the bodies were taken is 251. A large proportion of the dead in the cemetery were transferred from the hospital burial grounds in and around the city of Nashville and around general hospitals in Nashville and nearby battlefields of Franklin and Gallatin, Tennessee. Reinterments were also made from Bowling Green and Cave City, Kentucky.

During the Civil War, there were wooden headboards with the names and identifying data painted on them of those who died in general hospitals and battlefields or as prisoners of war. With exposure to the elements these headboards deteriorated and the information was lost. As a result when these bodies were removed for reburial the gravesites were marked as unknown. The mailing address for Nashville National Cemetery is 1420 Gallatin Road South, Madison, Tennessee 37115, telephone 615-860-0086. Office hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, but the gates are open throughout the year for visitation during daylight hours. The website states as of October 1997 the cemetery is now in closed status. That translates closed to burials not closed to the public.

There are a total of 35,404 buried at Nashville National Cemetery which is more than listed in their website. The information came from their handout. This includes more than the Civil War Union and Confederate soldiers. The cemetery is divided into sections and sites. It was easier than we thought to find our way around the cemetery using their map. Two soldiers were in section G, one in section J, and one in section A. I also took a picture of a family member for my children in section E.

#### Section A – site 4795



Harvey A. Goodrich was born in Freedom, Ohio in 1831 to Susan Goodrich, father unknown, apparently deceased at the time of the 1850 census. Harvey enlisted in the 1st Regiment Light Artillery Ohio, Battery A (Cotter's Battery) on August 27, 1861 at age 30. Military records state he died of a disease on June 6, 1862 at Nashville, Tennessee. He was mustered out the same date as his death as a Private. There is a monument in Cleveland, Ohio for their soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Microfilm Number M552 Roll 40. I was not successful at finding Harvey Goodrich's father, ancestors or siblings. But I am still searching for information on Harvey A. Goodrich's father and other relatives.

### Section G – Site 8129

William C. Goodrich enlisted in the US Army on January 6, 1861 at the age of 19 in Coles County, Illinois. The Illinois Civil War Detail Report states his nativity or hometown as Charleston, Coles County, Illinois. He was single when he enlisted and his occupation was noted as a laborer. On August 4, 1861 he was enlisted in the 25th Illinois Infantry, Company E as a Private. The Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois for the years 1861 – 1866 states on August 10, 1861 he was "absent sick at muster out." The Illinois Civil War Detail Report states he was absent in the hospital at Nashville, Tennessee and died September 3, 1864. Ancestry.com had dual records confusing this William C. Goodrich with another William C. Goodrich. I was unable to locate family for this William C. Goodrich apparently born in 1843. However, I am still searching for his parents and relatives.

### Section G – Site 8261

Isaac A. Goodrich was born in 1845 in Michigan. Ancestry.com records were in error for Isaac, however my research revealed he enlisted in the 15th Regiment Michigan Infantry Company D as a Private at the age of 19. He died in a hospital in Nashville, from chronic dysentery Sept. 23, 1864. The cemetery has Isaac listed as a Private however the military records state he was a Sergeant at the time of death. Microfilm number M545 roll 16. Isaac's parents were Rebecca Mason Alvord born 1811 and Philander Nelson Goodrich born 1812, both born in Kendall, New York. Rebecca and Nelson moved to Holly, Michigan where he was a farmer. Then they moved to Clarkson, New York and from there they returned to Kendall, New York where Nelson kept a hotel for a time until they moved back to Clarkson (now called Kanelin), New York.

### Section J – Site 13670



Elizur J. Goodrich was born February 22, 1843 in Athens, Arthur County, Ohio to Bingham Goodrich and Elizabeth Griffith. Elizur enlisted in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Ohio Infantry on August 21, 1862 at age 19 as a Private. Military records state that Elizur died of a disease on April 17, 1864 at Nashville, Tennessee. Most of the soldiers were dying from dysentery if not smallpox. However those with smallpox were sent to Smallpox Island. I changed my search tactics for Elizur after I learned he was from Ohio. What a shock that was when I saw Ohio on the headstone! First I searched at the Soldiers and Sailors website and found two Elizur Goodriches. One was my family's Elizur from New York and the other was Elizur from Ohio. Then I did a

search on ancestry.com and left out the middle initial, searched for an approximate birth year in Ohio and found him that way.

Elizur's parents were Bingham Goodrich, born in Arthur County, Ohio February 28, 1815 and Elizabeth Griffith born June 20, 1816 in Pennsylvania. Bingham died April 2, 1902 in Sumner County, Kansas at age 87. Elizabeth died January 28, 1896. Elizur's maternal grandfather was Belford Griffith born December 28, 1780 and died August 26,

1850. His maternal grandmother was Elizabeth Linton Griffith born May 25, 1785 and died April 6, 1819. Elizur was survived by his sister-in-law (wife of his brother Alonzo) Eliza T. Goodrich born July 16, 1850 in Missouri and died April 11, 1924 in Prairie, Washington County, Arkansas.

If I were to research my Goodrich Family Tree further on the branches, I might find that some of these union soldiers, if not all, are related to me after all. However there is an irony here and that is they fought to defeat my third cousin five times removed, Confederate General Robert Edward Lee. Ancestry.com had the records for Elizur Goodrich listed as Elizur Edgar Goodrich who enlisted in the 109th New York Infantry. The 109th New York Infantry was very successful in defeating my ancestor, General Robert E. Lee. However, my family's Elizur died shortly before the Battle of the Wilderness. My mother's maiden name was Lee. Her grandmother and my great grandmother's maiden name was Goodrich. My great, great grandmother was married to Homer Goodrich.

I lived in Hendersonville for three and a half years in the mid-sixties and never knew how involved Tennessee was in the Civil War. No telling how many times I drove down Highway 31E through Madison, even shopped in Madison, and didn't even know Nashville National Cemetery was there. It is a well-maintained cemetery and from the road it is noticeably a military cemetery with the uniformity of the headstones in even rows and in well-formed semi-circles.

#### Sources:

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html>

Handout from the Nashville National Cemetery and their website

<http://www.bonps.org/natlcm/natlcm.htm>

<http://www.ancestry.com>

Hiatt Family Tree at ancestry.com

Ten Generations of Goodrich beginning with William and Zebulon and ending with Kaden Sebastian

<http://home.comcast.net/~vwgoodrich/goodrich.htm>

Genealogy Record of Rev. Nicolas Baker and his descendents

[http://www.archive.org/stream/genealogicalreco00bake/genealogicalreco00bake\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/genealogicalreco00bake/genealogicalreco00bake_djvu.txt)

Illinois Civil War Records

<http://www.ilsos.gov/genealogy/CivilWarController>

Company E of the Twenty-Fifth Illinois Infantry

Transcribed from pp 338-9 of v.2 of the Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois for the years 1861 – 1866

<http://www.illinoiscivilwar.org/cw25-coe.html>

Illinois Civil War Detail Report

<http://www.ilsos.gov/genealogy/CivilWarController>

Name: Philander Nelson Goodrich source: Volume: 64; Page Number: 430

Reference: Genealogy of Alexander Alvord of Windsor, Ct., by Sam Morgan Alvord, Webster, NY, 1908, (823p.): 240

The Goodrich Family Association Private Collection: Source: Alvord, Samuel Morgan, A Genealogy of the Descendents of Alexander Alvord, A. D. Andrew, printer, 1908, Webster, New York, page 240.

*Family genealogy for Elizur Goodrich provided from handwritten Bible pages for Elizur Goodrich's family provided by the Goodrich Family Association.*

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