

OUR CONFEDERATE
ANCESTOR



INTRODUCTION

The American Civil War (1861-1865) was fought between the United States federal government (the Union) and eleven Southern states that seceded to form the Confederate States of America under President Jefferson Davis. Led by President Abraham Lincoln, the Union opposed both the expansion of slavery and the legality of secession. The conflict began on April 12, 1861, when Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

In the first year, the Union secured the border states and established a naval blockade while both sides built large armies. By 1862, the war had intensified into a series of major and costly battles. That September, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, making the abolition of slavery a central war aim despite opposition from Northern Democrats known as Copperheads. The policy discouraged foreign support for the Confederacy and allowed the Union to recruit African American soldiers, strengthening its forces.

In the Eastern Theater, General Robert E. Lee won several victories against Union forces, but his army suffered a major setback at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 following the earlier loss of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson at Chancellorsville. In the West, Union forces captured New Orleans and, under General Ulysses S. Grant, secured the Mississippi River with the fall of Vicksburg, effectively dividing the Confederacy.

By 1864, the Union's superior resources and manpower proved decisive. Grant's campaigns in Virginia forced Lee into a defensive position around Richmond, while General William Tecumseh Sherman captured Atlanta and carried out his destructive March to the Sea. In April 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, marking the end of the Confederacy.

The war resulted in approximately 970,000 casualties, including around 620,000 soldier deaths, many from disease. Its enduring outcomes were the preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery, though its causes and legacy remain subjects of debate.

This context introduces the history of your Confederate ancestor, John William Duggins, Private, Company E, 5th Missouri Cavalry (Gordon's Regiment), and Company H of Shelby's "Iron Brigade."



OUR CONFEDERATE
ANCESTOR

TABLE of CONTENTS

Page

1. [William T. Duggins](#)
- X. [John D. Duggins](#)
- X. [Cambridge Missouri](#)
- X. [John William Duggins](#)
- X. [5th Missouri Cavalry](#)
- X. [Battle of Pilot Grove](#)
- X. [Garrison Street Military Prison](#)
- X. [Oath and Bond](#)
- X. [Release and Aftermath](#)

William T. Duggins (c. 1752-1827)

William T. Duggins was born in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to America in 1763 with his mother, Alice, following the death of his father, also named William. They settled in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He later apprenticed as a silversmith in Louisa County, Virginia.

He enlisted on January 20, 1777, in Captain William Vanse's Company of the 12th Virginia Regiment during the American Revolutionary War. Over the course of his service, he was transferred to units under Colonel James Wood, including elements of the 4th, 8th, and 12th Virginia Regiments. His military record last appears on a muster roll dated November 1779 at a camp near Morristown.

On December 16, 1787, William married Elizabeth Perkins, born in South Carolina in 1771 to a well-established family.

He was a member of the Episcopal Church and was regarded as a devout Christian. William and Elizabeth had fourteen children, all born in Louisa County, Virginia.

Children of William T. Duggins and Elizabeth Perkins:

- Polly Duggins (b. 1788), Louisa County, Virginia
- Jane Duggins (b. 1790), Louisa County, Virginia
- Robert Duggins (b. 1792), Louisa County, Virginia; d. before 1872
- William Duggins Jr. (b. 1794), Louisa County, Virginia; later of Hanover County, Virginia
- **John D. Duggins** (b. 1796), Louisa County, Virginia
- George Duggins (b. 1798), Louisa County, Virginia; d. after 1873
- Pouncy Duggins (b. 1800), Louisa County, Virginia
- Jefferson Duggins (b. 1802), Louisa County, Virginia; d. before 1873
- Washington Duggins (b. 1804), Louisa County, Virginia
- James Madison Duggins (b. 1806), Louisa County, Virginia; d. 1865
- Lewis H. Duggins (b. 1808), Louisa County, Virginia; d. 1875
- Thomas Crutchfield Duggins (b. 1810), Louisa County, Virginia; later of Marshall, Missouri
- Fleming P. Duggins (b. 1812), Louisa County, Virginia
- Franklin A. Duggins (b. 1814), Louisa County, Virginia

William T. Duggins died on June 23, 1827, in Louisa County, Virginia, at the age of 75. Elizabeth Perkins Duggins died on December 17, 1823, in Louisa County, Virginia, at the age of 52.



OUR CONFEDERATE
ANCESTOR

LINEAGE *from* WILLIAM T. DUGGINS

7. William T. Duggins
m. Elizabeth Perkins
6. John D. Duggins
m. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson
5. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins
m. James Henry Smith
4. Laura Ann Smith
m. Peter Christen Jensen
3. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
m. Wilhelm August Heineman
2. Peter Edward Heineman
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

John D. Duggins (1796-1865)

John D. Duggins was born on May 1, 1796, in Louisa County, Virginia, the son of William T. Duggins and Elizabeth Perkins. He married Frances Elizabeth Dickinson (right) on January 20, 1823, in a ceremony for which Lieutenant Hudson Martin served as bondsman. Frances was born on January 11, 1808, in Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri, and was the daughter of Thurston Dickinson and Mary Martin.

In 1834, John and Frances relocated from Virginia to Missouri, where they settled on the "Moss White Farm," located approximately three miles west of Marshall in Saline County. There, they established what is believed to be the county's first boarding school, which they operated for approximately ten years. John initially constructed a home combining log and frame construction and transported lumber from Chambers' mill across the Big Bottom for its completion. As the school grew, the Duggins residence was expanded accordingly.

John and Frances had two children: **Elizabeth Marshall Duggins**, born in 1828 in Saline County, Missouri, who died in 1904, and John William Duggins, born in 1839 in Saline County, Missouri. In 1850, the family moved to Cambridge, Missouri.



Cambridge, Missouri

Cambridge, Missouri, developed in the mid-19th century after a shift in the channel of the Missouri River in 1845 destroyed the nearby town of Jefferson. Following this event, a new settlement emerged less than a mile downstream, which later became known as Cambridge.

The origin of the town's name is not definitively documented. One explanation suggests it was named after Cambridge, Massachusetts, possibly influenced by Benjamin Chambers, the first county clerk and son of a Revolutionary War general noted for service at the Battle of Cambridge. Another account credits Frederick A. Brightwell, an early businessman and the town's first postmaster, with selecting the name, though this remains unverified.

Although settlement in the area began in 1845, the town was not formally laid out until 1848. By 1876, Cambridge had grown to a population of approximately 450 residents. The Duggins property

can be clearly seen in the lower left quadrant of the map on the following page. During its development, the town supported a modest but diverse local economy. At various times, it included up to four general stores supplying dry goods, hardware, and groceries, as well as a harness shop, one or two drug stores, tobacco manufacturing operations, hemp baling equipment, a tin and hardware store, a steam-powered mill, wagon and blacksmith shops, and a tavern that saw heavy Saturday patronage.

A community well with an oak bucket served as a central water source and was located at the southern end of Main Street, reflecting the town's early infrastructure and rural character.

Cambridge, Missouri, once featured a levee (or wharf) where steamboats regularly docked along the Missouri River. The landing was carefully graded from the riverbank down to the water's edge and surfaced with limestone. During its peak years of activity, this river traffic played a major role in the town's prosperity. Steamboats transported a wide range of goods, bringing manufactured products, supplies, and occasional entertainment from larger markets upriver, while exporting local products such as pelts, hemp, and tobacco to outside destinations.

The community also supported essential institutions, including a school and a Methodist church. The Methodist congregation had originally been organized in 1837 in a schoolhouse in nearby Jefferson. As Cambridge developed, services were moved to the new town, and in 1853 a dedicated church building was constructed. In later years, this congregation merged with the Gilliam Methodist Church.

Church life reflected the customs of the time. Hymns were typically led by a song leader who used a tuning fork to establish pitch. Seating within the church was divided, with women on the west side and men on the east, while the "amen corner" in the northwest section was usually occupied by older members. A gallery at the rear of the church was designated for African American congregants. After the Civil War, the church building was temporarily occupied by Wisconsin troops, who also constructed a stockade around it.

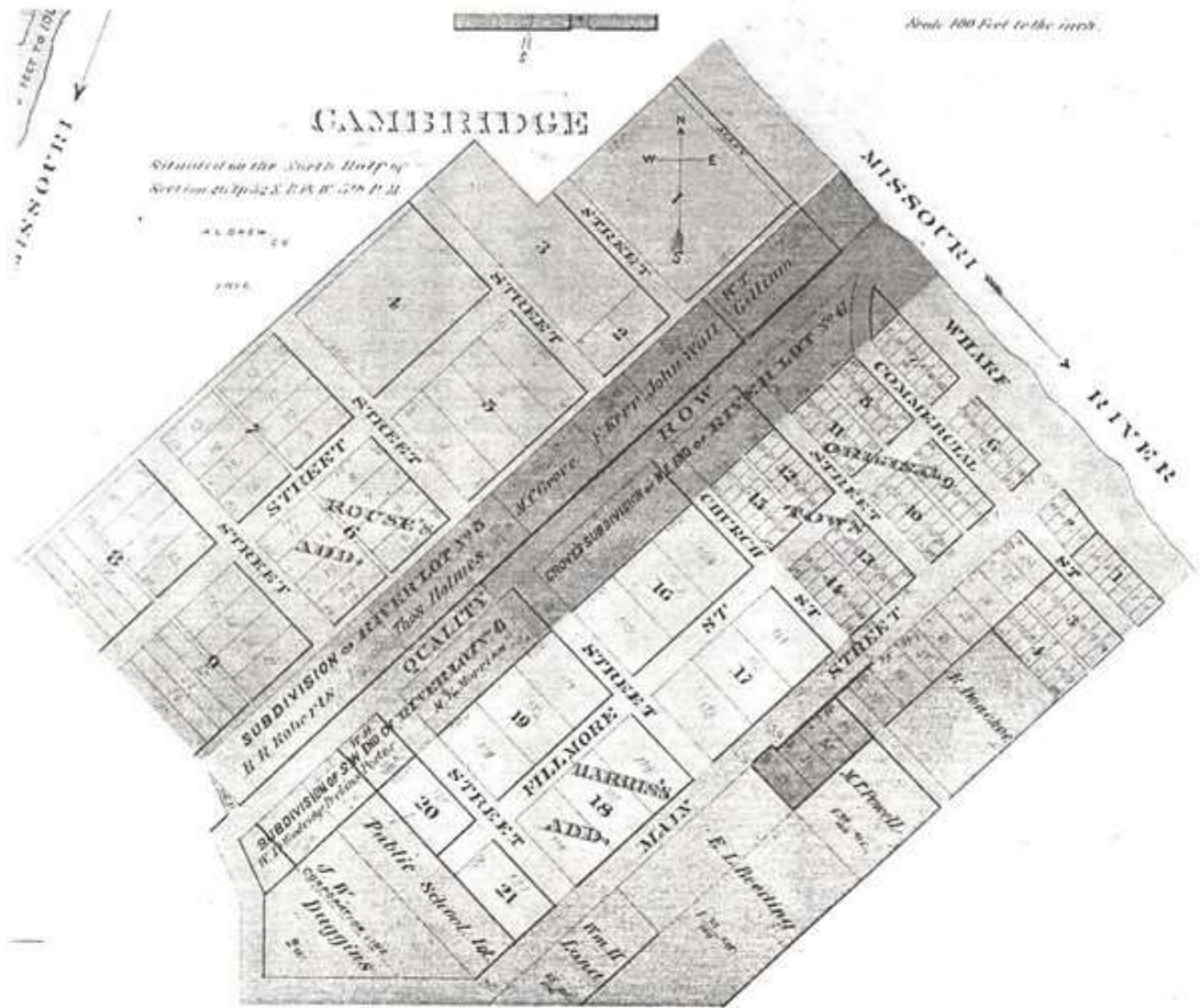
Early industry in the region included milling operations. The first mill in Saline County was established around 1817 approximately one mile below Cambridge, initially powered by horses and used primarily for grinding corn and wheat. During Cambridge's more prosperous years, a steam-powered mill operated by a Mr. Donahoe was established within the town. It used traditional

millstones and produced flour that was sifted through cloth to separate bran and chaff.

The area also has historical connections to the Earp family. Nicholas P. Earp and his family moved to Saline County around 1870, settling on a farm about two and a half miles east of Gilliam. His children included Virgil, Morgan, Wyatt, Warren, and Adelia. The family remained in the area until 1877, when Nicholas, his wife, and their youngest son relocated to California by

covered wagon. The older Earp sons had previously moved on to Dodge City.

The decline of Cambridge began with the construction of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, which bypassed the town. Combined with the development of nearby communities such as Slater and Gilliam, this shift in transportation and commerce ultimately led to Cambridge being abandoned.



1876 Map of Cambridge

John Duggins died on July 22, 1865, in Fulton, Missouri, at the age of 69. Frances Duggins died on May 27, 1880, in Fulton at the age of 72. They are interred at the Good Hope Cemetery in Cambridge, Missouri.



John William Duggins (1839-1865)

John William Duggins was born on November 16, 1839, in Cambridge, Saline County, Missouri. He grew up in a rural agricultural setting and, from an early age, assisted his father in managing the family's extensive 1,200-acre farm. Farming remained his primary occupation throughout his life, reflecting the agrarian character of central Missouri during the mid-19th century. In addition to his agricultural work, he served for a time as a township constable, demonstrating a limited but notable role in local civil administration prior to the Civil War.

John W. Duggins enlisted in Company E, 5th Missouri Cavalry in Saline County, Missouri on August 18, 1862 by Col. J.O. Shelby.

Confederate.	
5 Cav.	Mo.
Duggins, John W.	
Co. E, 5 Missouri Cavalry.	
Confederate.	
Private	Private
ROLL NUMBER	
47961760	
1855	
3445	
26170	
057227	
200	
064963	
Number of military cards taken... 0	
Number of personal papers taken... 0	
Book Mark	
See also	
This register appears to have been wrongly copied in the Roll of the 5th Missouri Cavalry, Gordon's Regiment, Missouri Cavalry, and Shelby's Regiment, Missouri Cavalry, but it was designated by the Confederate War Department as the 5th Regiment, Missouri Cavalry.	
Book mark	

Co. E 5th Missouri Cavalry

Company Muster Roll

August 18th - December 31st 1862

John W. Duggins, Private, Co. E Gordon's Regiment,
Missouri Cavalry

Company Muster Roll

August 18th - December 31st 1862

5th Missouri Cavalry

The 5th Missouri Cavalry was organized in the spring of 1862 and quickly became one of the more active Confederate mounted units in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. It was commonly known as the Jackson County Regiment or the Jackson County Cavalry, reflecting the large number of men recruited from Jackson County and surrounding counties in western Missouri.

As was typical of Civil War units, the regiment was frequently identified by the names of its commanding officers rather than by its formal designation. Because leadership changed over time and companies were reorganized, the unit acquired several unofficial titles. Among these were Blackwell's Cavalry, Gordon's Cavalry, Kirtley's Cavalry, Garrett's Cavalry, Rathburn's Cavalry, Stallard's Cavalry, Farrell's Cavalry, and Shelby's Cavalry, after Colonel Joseph O. Shelby.



Joseph Orville Shelby

The regiment operated primarily as a mobile cavalry force, engaging in reconnaissance, raiding, and skirmishing rather than large-scale set battles. Its duties often included disrupting Union supply lines, gathering intelligence, and conducting rapid movements across Missouri, Arkansas, and neighboring regions. This fluid style of warfare, combined with frequent changes in command structure, contributed to the variety of names by which the 5th Missouri Cavalry became known.

Joseph Orville "JO" Shelby (December 12, 1830 – February 13, 1897) was born in Lexington, Kentucky, to one of the state's wealthiest and most influential families. He lost his father at age 5, and was raised by

a stepfather. Shelby attended Transylvania University and was a rope manufacturer until 1852.

He then moved to Waverly, Missouri, where he engaged in steam boating on the Missouri River and in running a hemp plantation. He was one of the largest slaveholders in the state. During the "Bleeding Kansas" struggle, he led a company on the pro-slavery side.

In 1861, Shelby formed a cavalry company and was elected its captain, leading it into battle at Wilson's Creek. Promoted to colonel, he commanded a brigade at Prairie Grove. Shelby led his "Iron Brigade" of Missouri volunteers on what was to be the longest cavalry raid. The cover of this publication is a painting by Andy Thomas representing Shelby's Missouri raid of 1863: The Battle of Marshall.

Battle of Pilot Grove

Private Duggins fought at the Battle of Prairie Grove (December 7, 1862), a hard-fought engagement that ended in a tactical draw but secured northwest Arkansas for the Union.

After the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Pea Ridge, Southern forces withdrew into northwest Arkansas, where they regrouped while many units were reassigned east to support the Army of Tennessee. Union General Samuel Curtis advanced toward Little Rock but turned back following a small yet morale-boosting Confederate success at the Battle of Whitney's Lane. He then secured supply lines along the Mississippi at Helena and ordered John M. Schofield to clear Confederate forces from southwest Missouri and invade Arkansas.

Schofield divided his Army of the Frontier: one wing under Francis J. Herron remained near Springfield, while James G. Blunt advanced into northwest Arkansas. When Schofield fell ill, Blunt assumed overall command, leaving the two wings dangerously separated.

Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman, recently relieved of district command but still leading Arkansas troops, saw an opportunity to strike the divided Union army. He gathered roughly 11,000 poorly equipped men at Fort Smith and sent about 2,000 cavalry under John S. Marmaduke to screen his movement and harass Blunt.

Instead of retreating, Blunt advanced with about 5,000 men and 30 guns, clashing with Marmaduke in the Battle of Cane Hill. After nine hours of fighting, Marmaduke withdrew, but Blunt was left 35 miles deeper in Arkansas and far from support. Hindman

then moved north across the Boston Mountains to attack. Blunt, recognizing his vulnerability, called urgently for Herron, who responded with a rapid forced march from Missouri.

Hindman initially planned to use Marmaduke to draw Blunt in while striking his flank, but on 7 December he altered his approach and took a defensive position on high ground near Prairie Grove. Herron's exhausted troops arrived first, crossing a river and deploying against the Confederate right. He opened with a two-hour artillery barrage that disabled much of Hindman's artillery and forced Confederate infantry to shelter behind the ridge.

Believing the enemy weakened, Herron ordered an immediate assault. Union troops advanced through the Borden wheatfield toward the ridge but were met by fierce counterattacks from multiple directions. Near the Borden House, many were killed or wounded within minutes. Confederate troops pursued the retreating Federals but were driven back by devastating Union artillery firing canister at close range.

Herron launched a second assault with similar results—intense close combat followed by withdrawal under heavy pressure. Meanwhile, Blunt marched rapidly toward the sound of the guns, cutting across fields rather than following roads. His division struck the Confederate flank just as Hindman prepared another attack, catching Southern forces exposed—especially the 10th Missouri Confederate Infantry, which suffered severe losses.

Blunt pushed forward but was eventually pulled back as Confederate brigades counterattacked across the prairie. Once again, Union artillery broke up the assault. Fighting continued sporadically until darkness ended the battle.

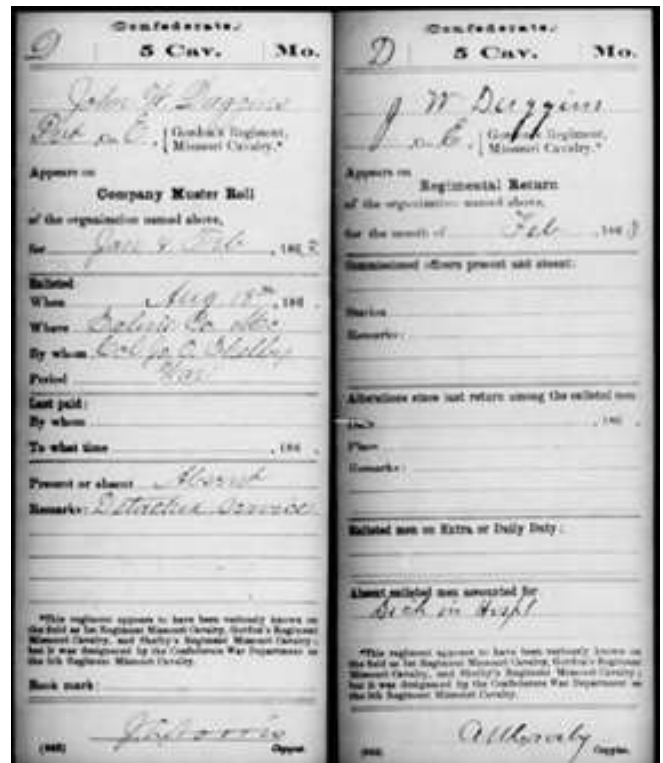
Overnight, Blunt called up reinforcements, but Hindman, short on ammunition, food, and reserves—and with much of his artillery disabled—chose to withdraw. His army retreated toward Van Buren in poor condition. Later Union advances forced him out of northwest Arkansas entirely.

Union casualties totaled about 1,251, while Confederates lost about 1,317, along with significant desertion and declining morale. Though neither side won decisively on the field, the Union retained control, making Prairie Grove a strategic victory that effectively ended major Confederate operations in northwest Arkansas.



Borden House on the Prairie Grove Battlefield

The Muster Roll for January-February 1863 notes that John W. Duggins was "absent" for "detached service." In February, he is listed as "sick in hospital."



Co. E 5th Missouri Cavalry

Company Muster Roll (left)

January - February 1863

Regimental Roster (right)

February 1863

One month later, on January 29th 1863, John W. Duggins was captured in Howell County, Missouri and received at Gratiot Military Prison, St. Louis, MO on February 8, 1863.



Gratiot Street Military Prison

Gratiot Street Prison in St. Louis originated as McDowell Medical College, headed by Dr. Joseph Nash McDowell, a well-known but controversial figure noted for eccentric behavior and outspoken Confederate sympathies. He kept artillery pieces on campus and had students fire them during celebrations, at one point exhorting them—while dressed in a colonial-style hat—to “make Rome howl,” a reflection of both his theatrical personality and political leanings.

When the American Civil War began, McDowell left St. Louis to join the Confederacy, taking his cannons with him. Union authorities confiscated his property, first using it as barracks. By December 1861, the growing number of prisoners—particularly after campaigns in Missouri and Arkansas—overwhelmed existing facilities such as Myrtle Street Prison, prompting the conversion of the college into Gratiot Street Prison.

Under Union control, Gratiot became one of the most important and multifaceted military prisons in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. It held not only Confederate prisoners of war but also spies, guerrillas, political detainees, suspected Southern sympathizers, and Union soldiers accused of crimes such as desertion or insubordination. This diverse inmate population made the prison both strategically significant and difficult to manage.

Its location in the heart of St. Louis added to its complexity. The prison stood among some of the city’s wealthiest homes, reflecting the divided loyalties of a border-state city. Nearby were the residence of General John C. Frémont and prominent private homes, including that of the Harrison family. Adjacent to the prison was the Christian Brothers Academy, which inadvertently played a role in several escape attempts.

(Confederate)

J. W. Duggins
Gordon's Regt

Appears on a Roll
of Prisoners sent to St. Louis, Mo., by Major Gust. Heinrichs, Provost Marshal Gen., Army S. E. Mo., at West Plains, Howell Co., Mo., February 3, 1863.

Roll dated *not noted*

Age *23* height *5 feet 7 inches*
Remarks: *of Saline Co. Mo. Served in Rebel Army of Gordon's Regt in battle of Aizy.*

Presented by *A. J. [unclear]*

“J. W. Duggins, Gordon’s Regiment, Appears on a Roll of Prisoners sent to St. Louis, Mo. by Major Gust. Heinrichs, Provost Marshal Gen., Army S.E. Mo., at West Plains, Howell Co. Mo., February 3, 1863. Age 23; height 5 feet 7 inches. Remarks: of Saline Co.

Mo. Served in Rebel Army of Gordon’s Regt in battle of Aizy.”

(Confederate)

John W. Duggins
Det. Co. G. Gordon's Regt

Appears on a monthly Report
of Gratiot Street Prison (St. Louis, Mo.), from February 1 to 28, 1863.

Report dated *not noted*

When captured *Howell Co. Mo.*
When captured *Jan. 29*, 1863.
Received *Feb. 8*, 1863.
Discharged

Remarks:

Presented by *M. [unclear]*

(Confederate)

John W. Duggins
Det. Co. G. Gordon's Regt

Appears on a Roll
of Inmates, U. S. Army, etc., confined in the Military Prison and Hospitals at St. Louis, Mo., April 1, 1863, under orders from Provost Marshal Gen., Department of the Missouri.

Roll dated St. Louis, April 9, 1863.

When captured *Howell Co. Mo.*
When captured *Jan. 29*, 1863.

Remarks:

Presented by *T. [unclear]*

Because of its urban setting, escapes were more feasible than at isolated prison camps. Prisoners who managed to break out could often find assistance within a few blocks. The most notable escape occurred in December 1863, when approximately 60 prisoners tunneled out. Others escaped by breaching walls into neighboring buildings, including the academy, where they were sometimes able to exit without interference. However, escape attempts were dangerous; many were thwarted, and some prisoners were killed in the process. Others faced execution by hanging or firing squad after being recaptured or convicted of serious offenses.

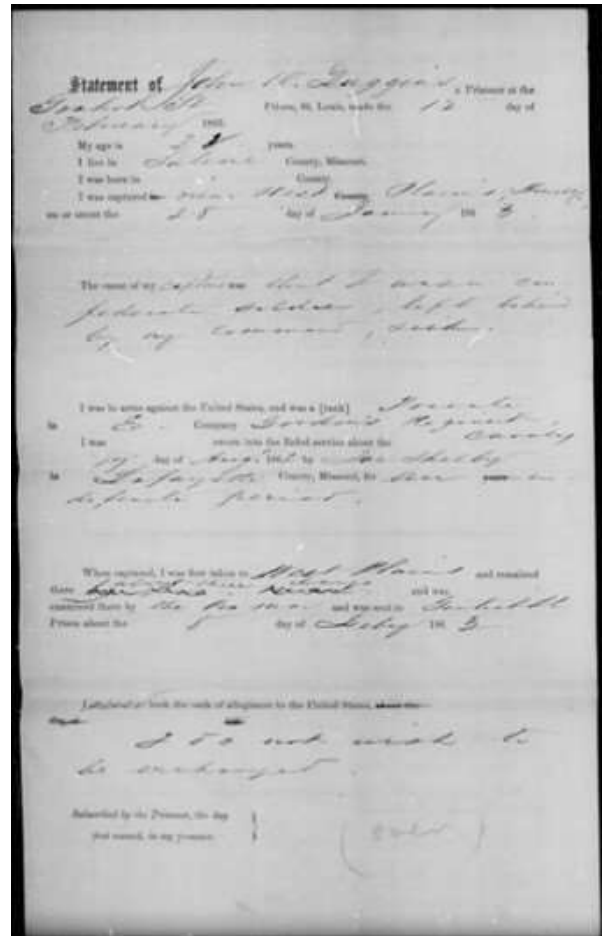
Conditions within the prison reflected the broader hardships of Civil War incarceration. Overcrowding, disease, and limited supplies were persistent problems. Smallpox outbreaks were particularly deadly, leading to quarantines and burials in isolated locations, including river islands in the Mississippi. While some deceased prisoners were returned to their families, many were buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery or in other local burial grounds.

Gratiot Street Prison remained in operation throughout much of the war, processing many of the most notorious figures active in the Trans-Mississippi region. After the war, the building's military use declined, and it was eventually demolished in 1878.

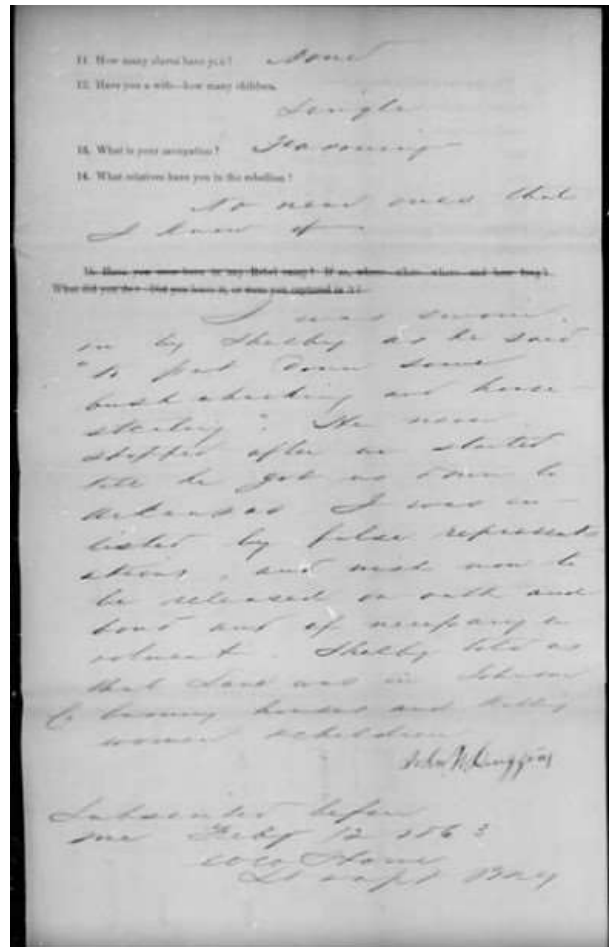
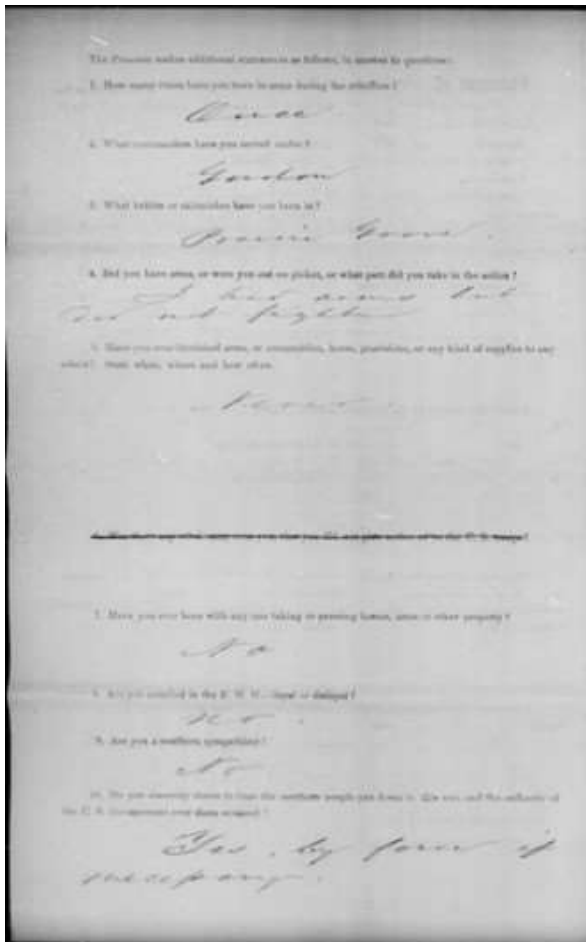
Today, the site is occupied by the headquarters of Nestlé Purina PetCare.

Oath and Bond

During the American Civil War, many Confederate prisoners were released under systems of parole, oath, or bond rather than held indefinitely. Captured soldiers often secured their freedom by swearing an oath of allegiance to the United States or signing a parole pledging not to take up arms again until formally exchanged. In some cases, especially for civilians or irregular fighters, financial bonds were also required to guarantee compliance. These measures reduced the burden on Union prison facilities while attempting to limit the return of former prisoners to active service—though enforcement varied and violations were not uncommon. J John W. Duggins was released under such conditions, taking the oath of allegiance on February 12, 1863, and posting a bond of \$2,000 as security for his adherence to its terms.



"Statement of John W. Duggins a Prisoner at the Gratiot St. Prison, St. Louis made the 12 day of February 1863. My age is 22 years. I live in Saline County, Missouri. I was born in Saline County. I was captured near West Palins, Missouri on or about the 28 day of January 1863. The cause of my capture was that I was a Confederate soldier, left behind by my command, sick. I was in arms against the United States, ad was a [rank] Private in E Company Gordon's Regiment Cavalry. I was sworn into the Rebel service about the 17 day of Aug 1862 by Jos. Shelby in LaFayette County, Missouri, for an years indefinite period. When captured, I was taken in West Plains and remained there about three days and was examined there by the Prison and was sent to Gratiot Prison about the 8 day of February 1863. I never took the oath of allegiance to the United States, ~~about the day of~~ 186. I do not wish to be exchanged. Selected by the Prisoner, the day first named in my presence."



"The Prisoner makes additional statements as follows, in answer to questions:

1. How many times have you been in arms during the rebellion? *Once.*
2. What commanders have you served under? *Gordon.*
3. What battles or skirmishes have you been in? *Pilot Grove.*
4. Did you have arms, or were you out on picket, or what part did you take in the action? *I had arms but did not fight.*
5. Have you ever furnished arms or ammunition, horse, provisions, or any kind of supplies to any rebels? *State when, where and how often. Never*
6. ~~Was there any rebel camp near you, that you did not give notice of to the U.S. Troops?~~
7. Have you ever been with any one taking or pressing horses, arms or other property? *No.*
8. Are you enlisted in the E.M.M. - Loyal or disloyal? *No.*
9. Are you a southern sympathizer? *No.*
10. It is your sincere desire to have the southern people put down and the authority of the U.S. Government over them restored? *Yes, by force if necessary."*

11. How many slaves have you? *None.*
12. Have you a wife - how many children.? *Single.*
13. What is your occupation? *Farming.*
14. What relatives have you in the rebellion? *No near ones that I know of.*
15. ~~Have you ever been in any Rebel camp? If so, whose-when, where and how long? What did you do? Did you leave it or where you captured in it?~~

I was sworn in by Shelby as he said 'to put down some bushwhacking and horse stealing.' We never stopped after we started once he got us down to Arkansas. I was enlisted by false representations, and wish now to be released on oath and bond if necessary, involvement. Shelby told us that Davis was in Johnson County burning houses and killing women & children."

John W. Dinggins

Subscribed before me Feb 12 1863

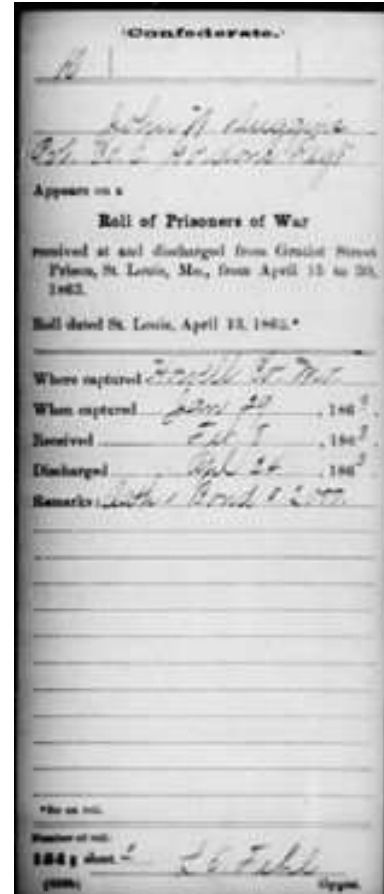
Release and Aftermath

On April 24, 1863, Private Duggins was released from Gratiot Military Prison on oath and bond of \$2000.



"March the 18, 1863.
What is your age. 22 years. I live in Saline County Mo.
When were you taken prisoner. 27 of January in Howell
Co Mo by the 11 Wisconsin. How long have you been
in prison. 6 weeks. Have you ever been examined. Yes.
When and where were you examined. In this place. Are
you a man of family. I am not. Why were you taken
prisoner. Because I was a Confederate Soldier. What
terms do you ask to be released on. Take the oath and
give bond if necessary."

John W. Duggins



Confederate
John W. Duggins
Pvt. Co. E. Gordons Reg.
Appears on a
Roll of Prisoner of War
received at and discharged from Gratiot Street
Prison, St. Louis, MO, from April 15 to 20, 1863.
Roll dated St. Louis, April 13, 1863.
Where captured Howell Co. Mo.
When captured Jan 20, 1863
Received Feb 8, 1863
Discharged Apr 24, 1863
Remarks: Oath & Bond of 2000

According to *Trans-Mississippi Men* by William B. Bartels (p. 134), John W. Duggins enlisted as a private in Company H of Slayback's Missouri Cavalry Regiment in November 1864; thus, breaking his oath. This timing indicates that he likely joined the unit as it moved through the region during Price's Missouri Expedition and departed the state with the unit thereafter. The specific detachment to which John W. Duggins belonged or for how long is unknown.

Slayback's Missouri Battalion took part in more than fifteen engagements but was badly reduced by losses and constant campaigning by late 1864, when Duggins re-enlisted. Following the failure of Price's Missouri Expedition, the unit retreated into Indian Territory and wintered in harsh, deteriorating conditions. By early 1865 it had fragmented into several detachments: one moved to Shreveport, Louisiana—then a center of Trans-Mississippi forces—and was included in the June 1865 surrender, though it likely dissolved upon news of Confederate collapse in the East; a second surrendered near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on May 28, 1865; and a third disbanded in southeastern Arkansas in early June without formal capitulation.

In contrast, General Joseph O. Shelby refused to surrender, leading roughly 1,000 men south into Mexico, an act that earned them the enduring nickname "the undefeated." Their defiance was later reflected in a verse added to *The Unreconstructed Rebel*, celebrating their decision to continue south rather than submit. Shelby intended to offer his command to Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico as a foreign legion, but Maximilian declined formal military service while granting land near Veracruz for an American colony. The settlement proved short-lived, collapsing after the collapse of the empire and Maximilian's execution in 1867.

According to tradition, Shelby ordered his battle flag sunk in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass Texas to prevent its capture. This act has been memorialized locally and contributed to the legend of his command. The phrase "the undefeated" later inspired the title of *The Undefeated*, starring John Wayne and Rock Hudson.

Shelby returned to Missouri in 1867 and resumed farming. In 1893, he was appointed U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri and served as a key defense witness for Frank James during his trial. He remained in that role until his death in 1897 and was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Following the conclusion of the Civil War, John William Duggins married Artemisia E. Hawkins on September 4, 1865. She was born on August 19, 1845. Together, they established a family and had six children.

Their children were: Luna B. Duggins (b. 1866), Ollie V. Duggins (b. 1868), Susie M. Duggins (b. 1871), Kate V. Duggins (b. 1873), John T. Duggins (b. 1876), and Spencer M. Duggins (b. 1879).

In 1885, approximately twenty years after the end of the Civil War, a reunion of Confederate veterans was held in Higginsville, Missouri. Among those recorded as participants from General Joseph O. Shelby's command was John William Duggins, listed as a private in Company E of Gordon's regiment.

In 1892, Duggins is believed to have run for the office of County Assessor in Saline County, Missouri, although the outcome of the election is not definitively recorded. Later in life, he relocated to Hammond in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, where he continued to be active in local civic life. At the time of his death, he had served as city marshal for one year and was also working as deputy sheriff and constable.

John William Duggins died on December 3, 1902, in Hammond, Louisiana, following an illness of approximately two weeks. Contemporary reports, including the *Times-Picayune* of December 8, 1902, described him as a Confederate veteran, a respected citizen, and a member of both the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. His body was returned to Missouri for burial in Cambridge.

Artemisia E. Duggins survived him by several years, passing away on November 8, 1917, in Hammond, Louisiana. She was also interred in Cambridge, Missouri.



John W. Duggins and Artemisia E. Hawkins
Good Hope Cemetery
Cambridge, Missouri

