

INTRODUCTION TO HARMON (BRIDGE-BURNERS) CEMETERY Pottertown Road, one-half mile from BridgeBurners Blvd.

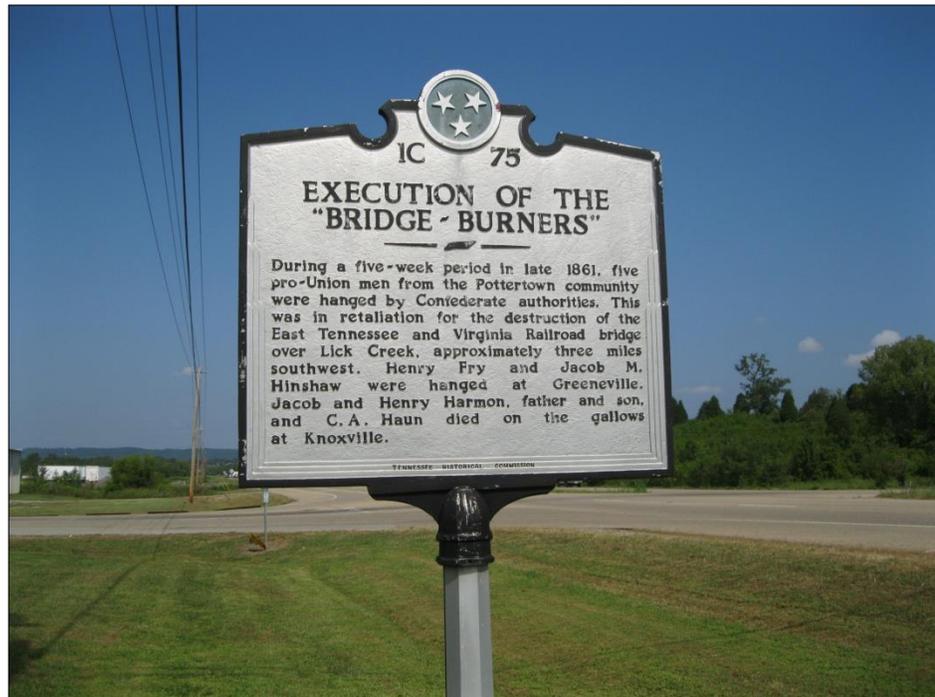
This area in western Greene County is between the Mohawk and Midway communities. The cemetery is located on Pottertown Road, about one-half mile from the intersection with BridgeBurners Blvd. For persons unfamiliar with Greene County Civil War history, the name BridgeBurners Blvd. would surely sound “curious”.

The Civil War in Greene County will forever be associated with two major events. One was the death of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan on the streets of Greeneville. The other was the burning of Lick Creek Bridge by Union supporters to prevent and disrupt Confederate activities in Greene County. The Harmon Cemetery is the final resting place of three Harmon family members who forfeited their lives for this cause. A Tennessee Historical Marker at the intersection of 11E and BridgeBurners Blvd. provides a brief summary of this Civil War tragedy.

The Harmon Family Graveyard began on the farm of Jacob Harmon Senior (c. 1781-1843) and his wife Catherine Messimer Harmon (c. 1785-after 1851). Both the Harmon family and the Messimer family came from Pennsylvania near the end of the 18th century. Although the earliest readable tombstone in the cemetery is for a Harmon child who died in 1858, it is believed both Jacob Sr and Catherine Messimer Harmon were buried here on their expansive farm that encompassed over 500 acres of land.

Jacob & Catherine had two sons, John and Jacob Junior. Following their father’s death in 1843, the oldest son, John, held 304 acres of the farm. The younger son, Jacob Junior, held 272 acres of the farm.

Jacob Harmon Junior (1818-1861) and his sons Henry (1839-1861) and Thomas (1838-1862) are buried side-by-side in this cemetery. Wife, and mother, Malinda Self Harmon (1818-1872) is buried beside her husband, Jacob Jr., and a daughter, Mary Evelina Harmon Murr (1843-1879), is





John & Sally Cobble Harmon
Photograph courtesy of Mr. Donahue Bible

buried beside her mother. These graves compose the first row of the graveyard.

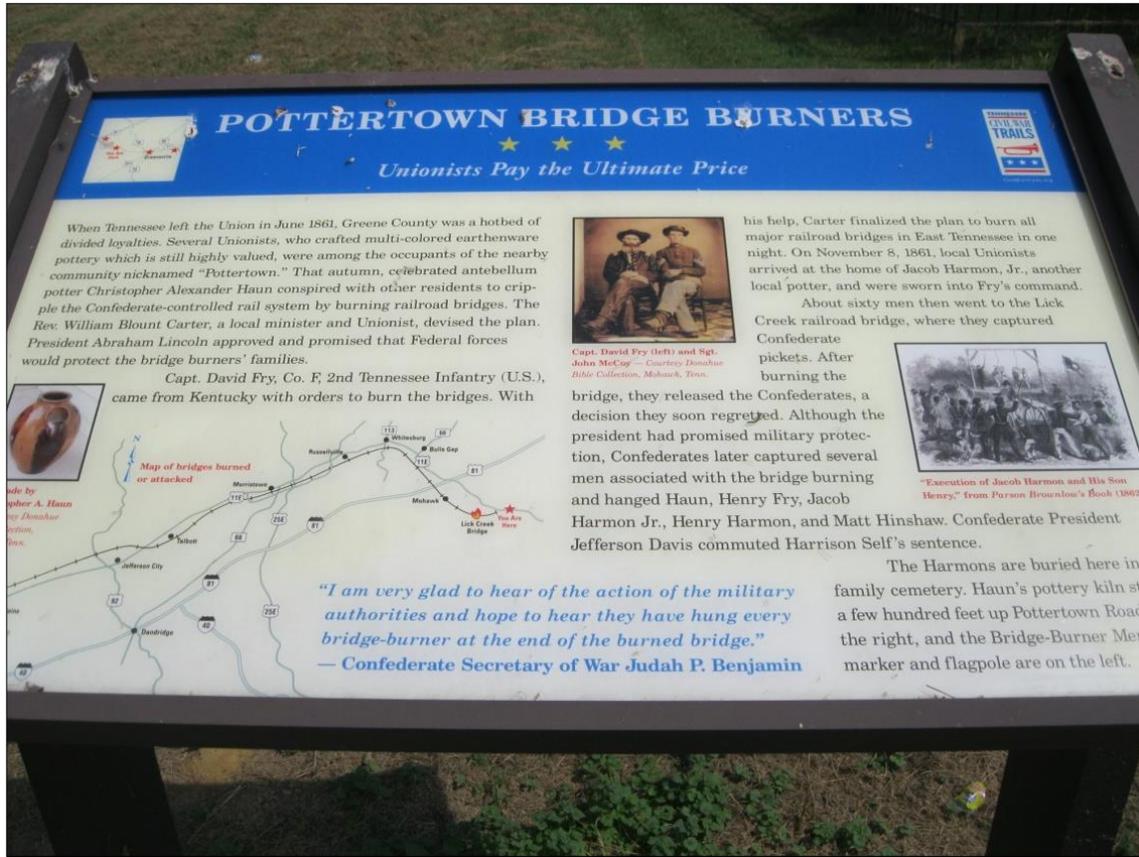
After the deaths of his father and two older brothers, Jacob and Malinda's son, Joseph enlisted with Company E 8th TN Infantry. Joseph Harmon survived the War. Jacob and Malinda Harmon's three younger sons and a daughter are buried in nearby cemeteries.

All of the other Harmon family members buried in this cemetery are members of the John (1810-1890) and Sally Cobble (1810-1883) Harmon Family and their descendants.

John and Sally Harmon's sons Harrison C inny Harmon (1834-1916), Jacob Luther Harmon (1844-1916) and Moses Perry Harmon (1855- 1915) are also buried in the cemetery. Following the deaths of their uncle and 1st cousins, Harrison C inny and Jacob Luther enlisted with Company E 8th TN Infantry. Another brother, Andrew Jackson Harmon, also served with this regiment, but he is not buried here. Andrew died in a Union hospital in Indiana during the closing months of the war.

All in all, in this very small cemetery are buried eight civil war soldiers; seven Union and one Confederate soldier. In short, it is hallowed ground. A tall flag pole and large American flag bear silent testament to the Harmon family's sacrifices.

Much of the original farm of Jacob Harmon Senior and the graveyard remained in the family well into the late 20th century when the land, located in close proximity to the 11E Highway was rezoned for commercial use and sold to developers. A 7 ½ acre parcel was excepted from development to create the Harmon Cemetery Park which includes the cemetery. The Storyboard pictured on the next page presents the tragedy of the Lick Creek Bridge Burnings in Greene County, Tennessee.



During this Civil War sesquicentennial period, the National Parks Service who operates the President Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville is also commemorating the event with picture cards of the burning of the Lick Creek Bridge in Greene County. The cards are available at no cost to visitors.

The cemetery is beautifully maintained by the Town of Mosheim. The picnic area is a pleasant place to sit and reflect, while letting your mind wander back to times past when families were torn asunder by the tragedies of the civil war.

True American heroes are buried here.

References:

[A Short Sketch of the Tragedy at 'Pottertown' Nov-Dec 1861](#), by R. Donahue Bible
[Olden Times In Greene County](#), by Harry B. Roberts