

1913

# Andersonville

John W. Elarton

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/books\\_pubs](https://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/books_pubs)

---

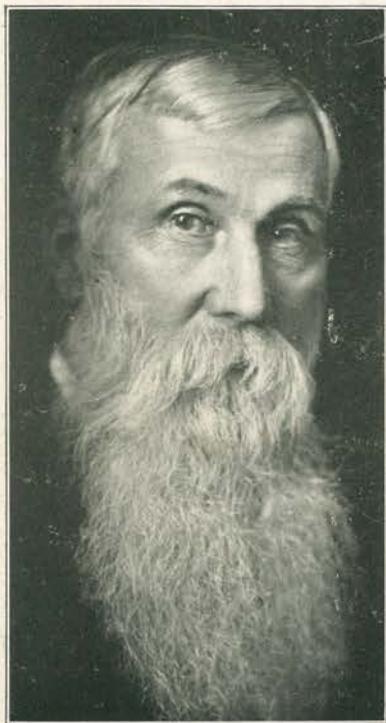
## Recommended Citation

Elarton, John W., "Andersonville" (1913). *Books and Publications*. 6.  
[https://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/books\\_pubs/6](https://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/books_pubs/6)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Bangor Community: Digital Commons@bpl. It has been accepted for inclusion in Books and Publications by an authorized administrator of Bangor Community: Digital Commons@bpl. For more information, please contact [ccoombs@bpl.lib.me.us](mailto:ccoombs@bpl.lib.me.us).

# ANDERSONVILLE

BANGOR  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
BANGOR ME.



J. W. ELARTON,  
Co. F, 14th Iowa Vol. 61-64.

A prisoner of War at Memphis, Mobile,  
Cahawba, Macon, Ga.

John L. Maile, Congregational minister, now of Los Angeles, California, who was a prisoner there when Providence Spring burst forth.

## Andersonville Prison and National Cemetery, Andersonville, Georgia.

Recently touring the southern states, 1912-1913, having visited viz: Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. After studying the sentiment of an organization, the "United Daughters of the Confederacy," numbering about 40,000 women who have organized an aggressive, country-wide society, one object has been to erect a monument at Andersonville to the memory of Captain Henri Wirz to eulogize and vindicate his conduct of that notorious prison, with its false inscriptions, terming him a martyr, has prompted us to publish this album of views, taken by the author, a professional photographer, having made a special trip for the purpose of publishing this notorious stockade prison; also the national cemetery just north of it, where are buried the victims of his unwarranted cruelty, and his superiors, Jefferson Davis, et al. Quotations from his official trial, also data, descriptive and historical, gathered from markers, mounments, memorials, and records erected there, also parts of the evidence at Wirz' trial at Washington, D. C. by a military commission of which General N. P. Chipman, Chief Advocate General, now of Sacramento, California, in his "Tragedy of Andersonville" is quoted by his permission, also quotation from "Prison Life in Andersonville" by Rev.



General William Ketcham states: "I wrote to Miss Alice Baxter, secretary of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to know what the fact was as to their intention to erect a monument to the memory of Captain Wirz at Andersonville, Ga., and I have her letter here as follows":

"Replying to your letter I take pleasure in sending you the enclosed article with reference to the building of a monument, the steps that are being made and the papers that are being written in the public schools, telling how atrocious was the conduct of the Union officials, and how humane and just was the conduct of the Confederate officials. Please return when you are through. We propose to erect a monument to Captain Wirz in a spirit of equity, believing that the world should know that the Confederacy's treatment of prisoners of war was conducted on humane principles. I note you are a lawyer; perhaps if you study both sides of this question you will come to see that there are two sides to the question. We were much pleased with Corporal Tanner when he was south. We do not desire to stir up bitterness, but we are unwilling for the south to remain under false charges. Sincerely yours,

Alice Baxter."

---

Colonel Chandler made a report on August 5, 1864, as follows:

My duty requires me respectfully to recommend a change in the officer in command of the post-Brigadier General J. H. Winder, and the substitution in his place of some one who unites both energy and good judgment with some feeling of humanity and consideration for the welfare and comfort (so far as is consistent with their safe-keeping) of the vast number of unfortunates placed under his control; some one who will at least not advocate deliberately and in cold blood the propriety of leaving them in their present condition until their number has been sufficiently reduced by death to make the present management suffice for their accommodation; who will not consider it a matter of self-laudation and boasting that he has never been inside of the stockade, a place the horrors of which it is difficult to describe, and which is a disgrace to civilization; the condition of which he might, by the exercise of a little judgment, even with the limited means at his command, have considerably improved.

In obedience to instructions I shall now proceed to the headquarters of the Army of the Tennessee, and request that any commissions for me be forwarded there to the care of the chief of staff.

I am Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. L. CHANDLER,

COL. R. H. CHILTON,

C. S. A., Richmond, Virginia.

Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.

Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.

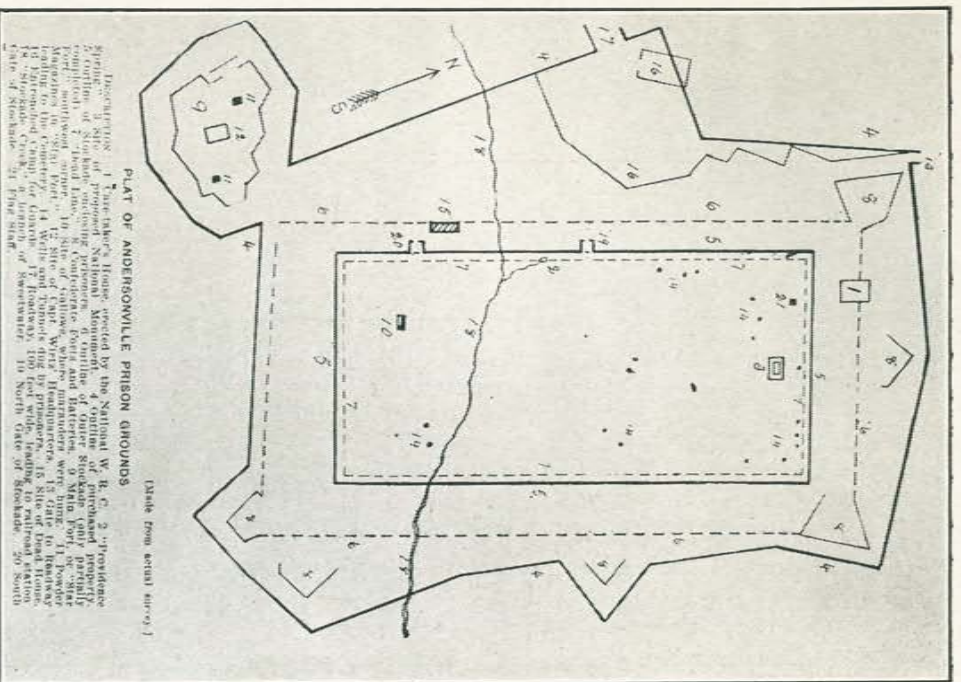


STOCKADE 1864 FROM N. E. CORNER

McElroy

Total number of prisoners confined 52,345. From June 31 to October 31 there were 10,187 deaths an average of one death for every 22½ minutes night and day. At the end of August, 1864 there were 31,693 prisoners and 3,076 or 100 per day died. "How many more died here may never be disclosed to mortal man, their bones lie under the soil in all parts of these grounds." Total buried in the cemetery 13,783.

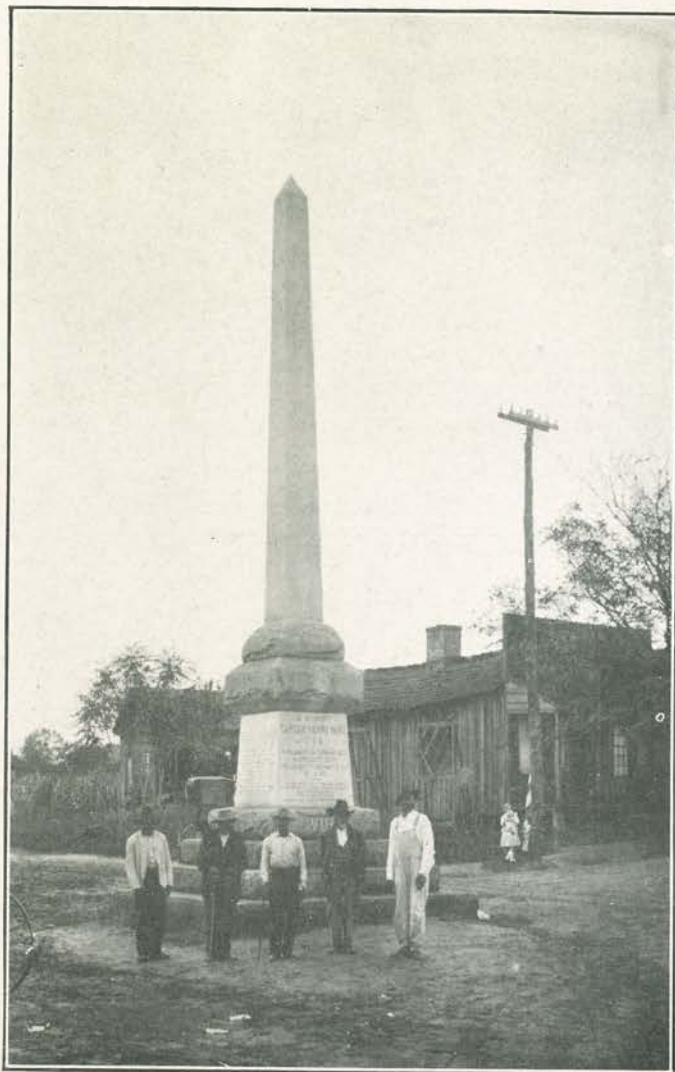




STOCKADE MAP.

Original stockade embraced 10 acres, 1864 enlarged to 25½ acres, a quadrangle 1540x750 feet, a deadline 17 feet all the way around deducting 3¼ acres for the sides of the sluggish stream 5 feet wide and 6 inches deep and swamp left about 22 acres. The stockade was formed by hewn pine logs 20 feet long set on end in the ground, leaving 15 feet above ground, with an outer stockade of round logs 12 feet high of similar construction 120 feet from inner stockade.

At one time there was but six square feet for each man to lie down upon, because of being so crowded.



WIRZ MONUMENT AND OFFICE,  
ANDERSONVILLE STATION.

### Inscriptions.

---

In memory of Captain Henry Wirz  
C. S. A.

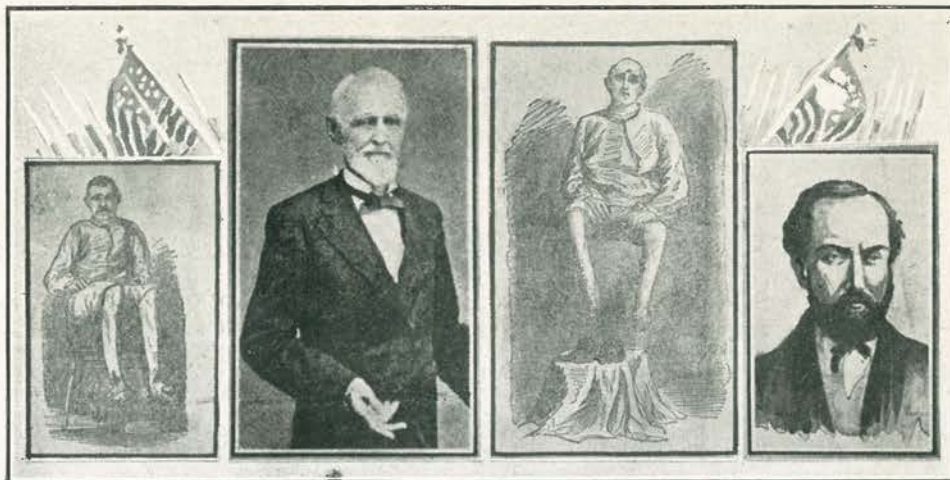
Born in Zurich, Switzerland, 1822.

Sentenced to death  
And executed at Washington, D. C.  
Nov. 10, 1865.

To rescue his name from the stigma  
Attached to it by embittered prejudice  
This shaft is erected by  
The Georgia Division  
United Daughters of the Confederacy.

---

When time shall have softened  
Passion and prejudice,  
When reason shall have stripped the  
Mask from misrepresentation,  
Then justice holding evenly her scales,  
Will require much of past censure  
And praise to change places.  
Jefferson Davis, 1888.



Corporal G. H. Matthews  
Co. H, 4th Penn.  
From a photo taken after  
his arrival at Annapolis.

Davis.

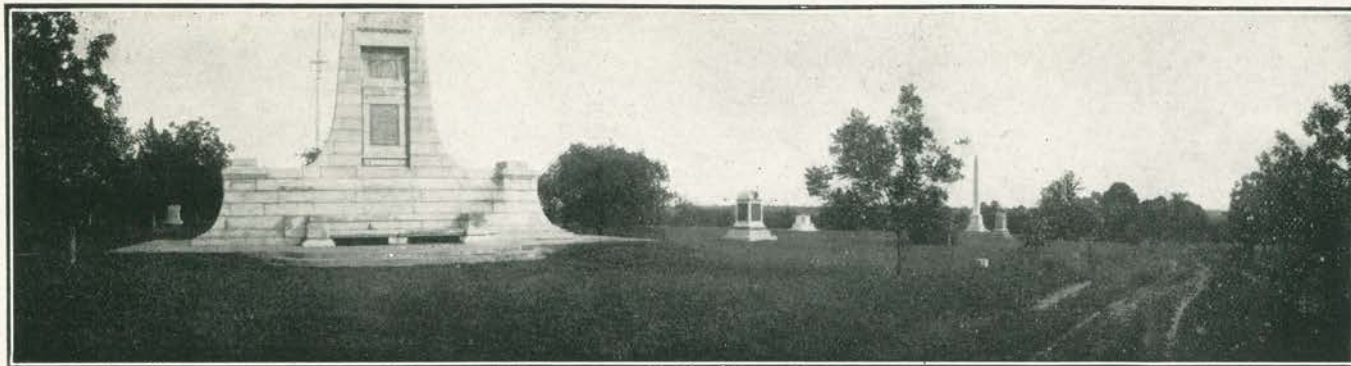
Corporal Calvin Bates  
Co. E, 20th Maine.  
From a photo taken after  
his arrival at Annapolis.

Wirz.

Ambrose Spencer, C. S. A. testified: "I saw W. S. Winder at the time he was laying out the prison and I asked him if he was going to erect barracks or shelter of any kind. He replied that he was not, that the damned Yankees who would be put in there would have no need for them. I asked him why he was cutting down all the trees, and suggested that they would prove a shelter to the prisoners from the heat of the sun at least. He made this reply or something similar to it: "That is just what I am going to do; I am going to build a pen here that will kill more damned Yankees than can be destroyed in the front." These are very nearly his words.

Wirz in his letter to Maj. General Wilson at Macon, Georgia, declared, and also introduced at his trial "That he was a tool in the hands of his superiors." (?) Jefferson Davis et al, and who else?





STOCKADE FROM N. W. CORNER.

(Copy.)

Headquarters Military Prison

Andersonville, Ga., July 27, 1864.

The officers on duty in charge of the Battery of Florida Artillery at the time will upon receiving notice that the enemy has approached within seven miles of this post,

**Open upon the stockade with grape shot,**  
without reference to the situation beyond these lines of defense.

John H. Winder,  
Brigadier General Commanding C. S. A.



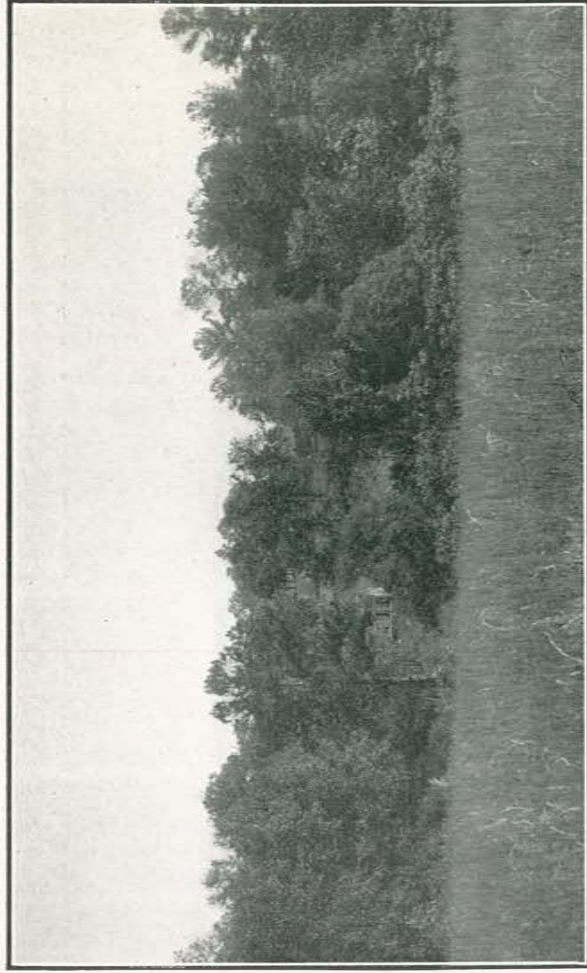
STOCKADE FROM S. W. CORNER.

#### Testimony of Dr. F. G. Castlen C. S. A.

Have been in Confederate Army for the last two years, from May till September, at Andersonville, I occasionally observed prisoners in the stockade. Their condition was deplorable, language could not express the condition in which I saw them. The stench was intolerable, it sometimes came up to my tent a half mile distant,. I have saw the prisoner, Wirz, I saw one man bitten by the dogs. I saw the dogs seize him, Captain Wirz was there.

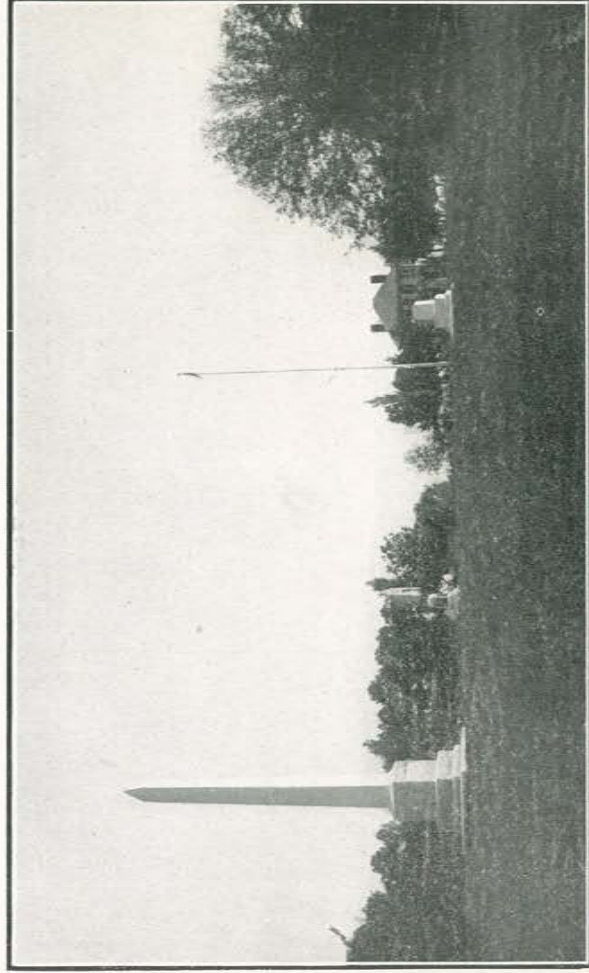
The central post in the above picture shows the post where "Raiders" were hung.





STOCKADE.

From place "Raiders" hung, to Providence Spring.



OHIO. NORTH TO W. R. C. COTTAGE.

"Death Before Dishonor."

To her 1055 loyal sons who died here in Camp Sumter from 1864 to April 1865, this monument is dedicated.



PROVIDENCE SPRING.

This pavilion was erected by the Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to the G. A. R. of the Republic in grateful memory of the men who suffered and died in the Confederate Prison at Andersonville, Georgia, from February, 1864 to April, 1865.

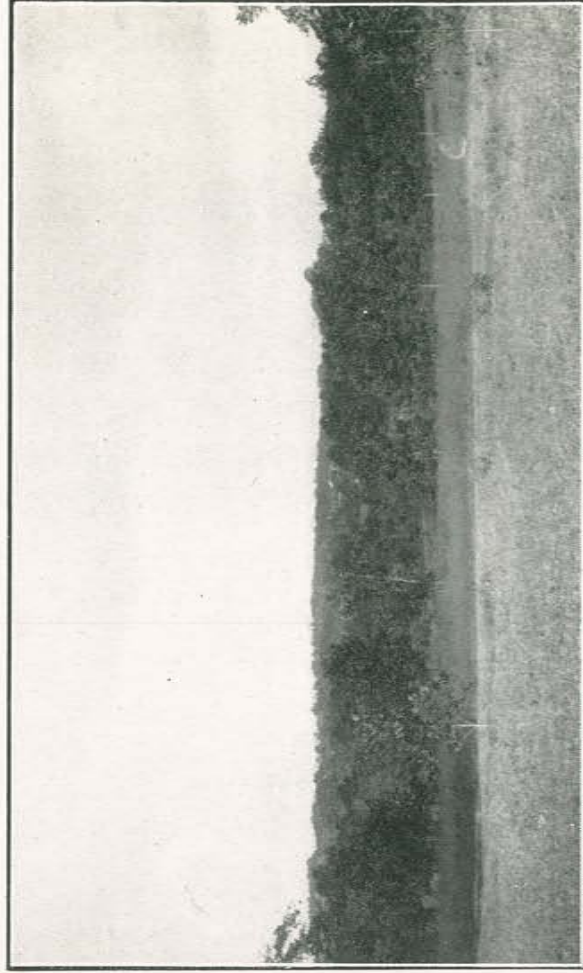
The prisoners cry of thirst rang up to the heaven  
God heard and with his thunderbolt cleft the earth.  
And poured his sweetest waters gushing here.

Erected 1901

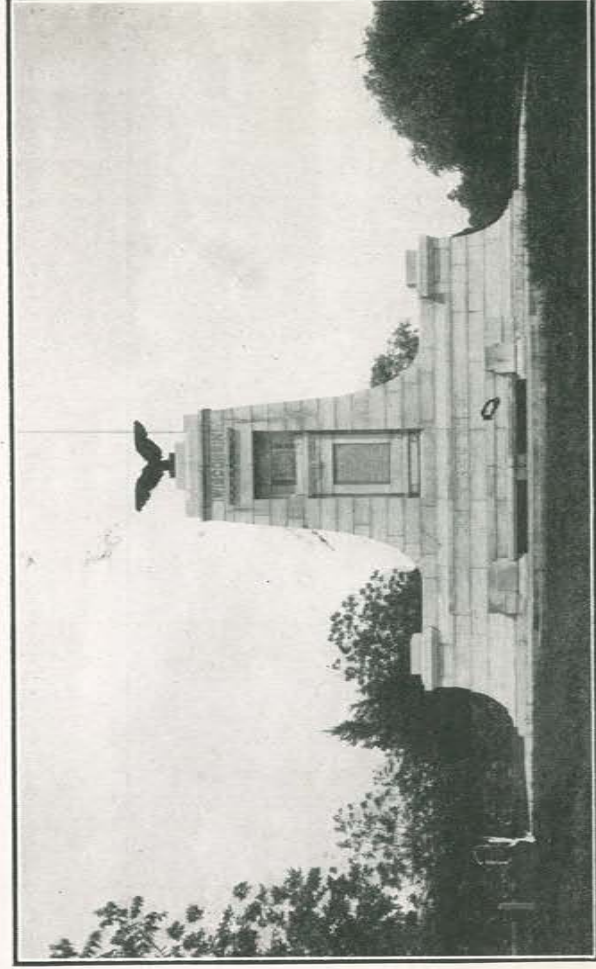
With charity to all and malice toward none,

August 12, 1864 a thunderbolt fell with  
Omnipotent ring  
And opened the fountain of  
Providence spring.





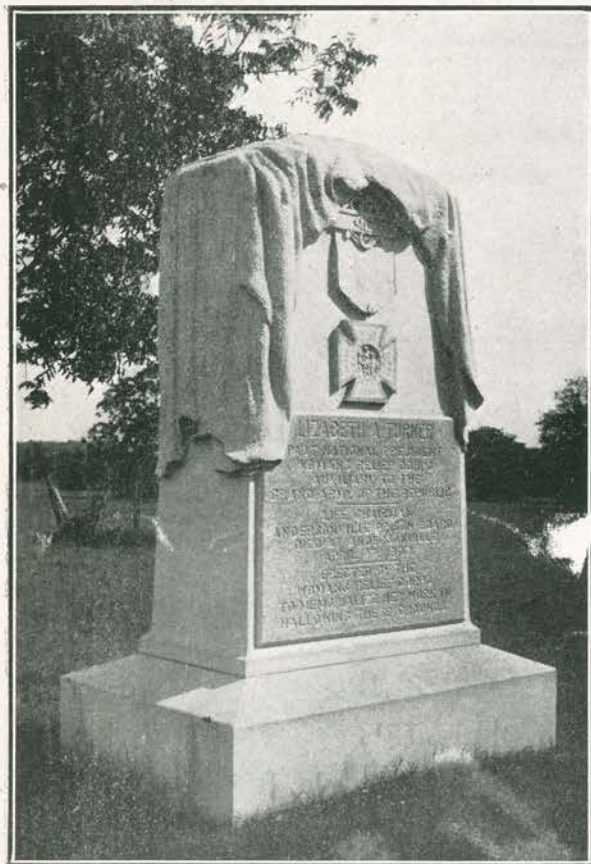
**STOCKADE.**  
Andersonville one half mile west.



**WISCONSIN.**

**"Let Us Have Peace."**

In grateful remembrance to her sons who died in Andersonville Prison, March, 1864, April, 1865. Known dead 260.



LIZABETH A. TURNER.

### Lizabeth A. Turner.

---

Past National President Woman's Relief Corps  
Grand Army of the Republic.

Life Chairman Andersonville Prison Board.

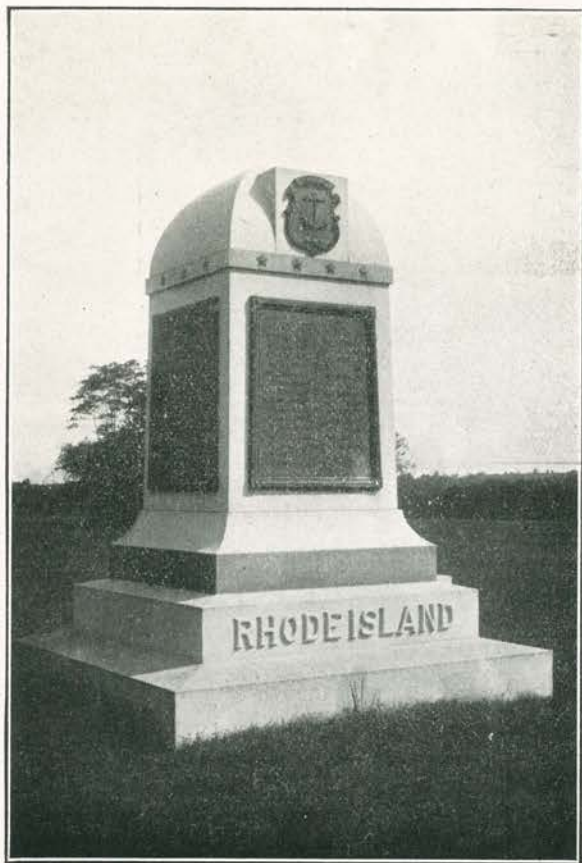
Died at Andersonville, April 27, 1907.

---

Erected by the Woman's Relief Corps to  
memorialize her  
work in hallowing these grounds.

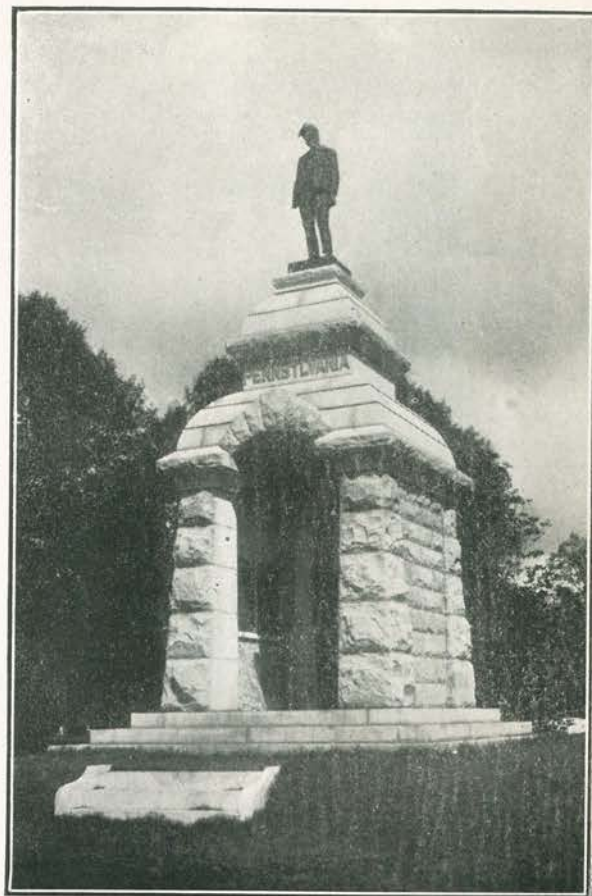
---





RHODE ISLAND.

Known dead 74.



PENNSYLVANIA.

"Death Before Dishonor".

Known dead 1863.



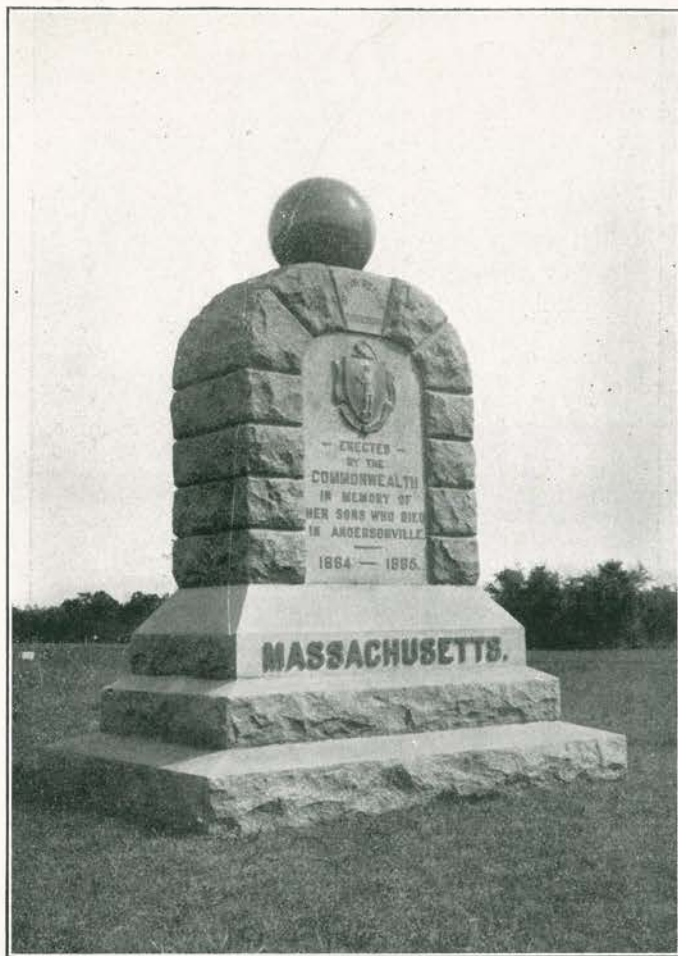
MICHIGAN.

---

"In Memoriam."

---

"Erected by the State of Michigan to her soldiers and sailors who were imprisoned on these grounds 1864 to 1865."



MASSACHUSETTS.

"Death Before Dishonor."

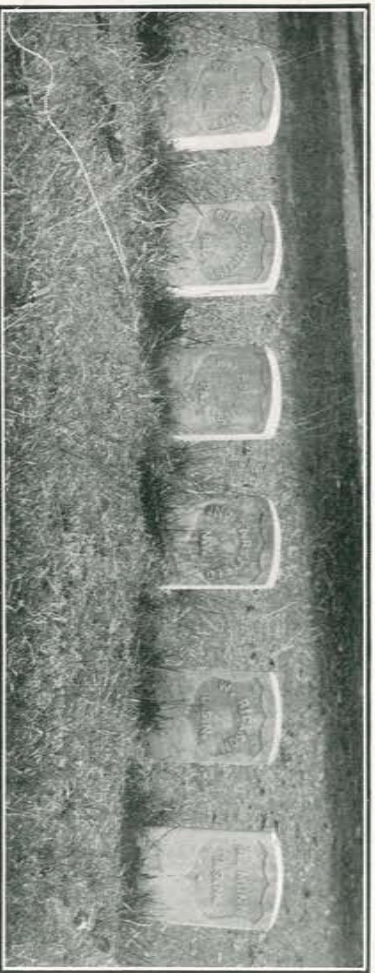
---

Erected by the Commonwealth in memory  
of her sons who died at Andersonville 1864-1865.

---

Known dead 800.





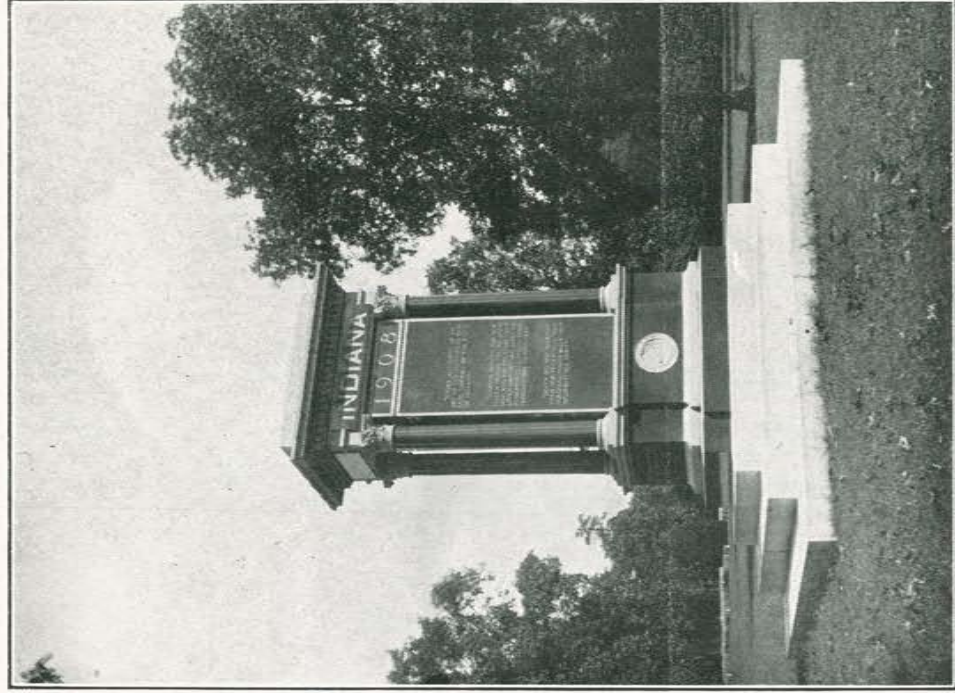
SIX RAIDERS.

Patrick Delaney, Chas. Curtis, Wm. Collins, John Sarsfield,  
W. Rickson, A. Munn.



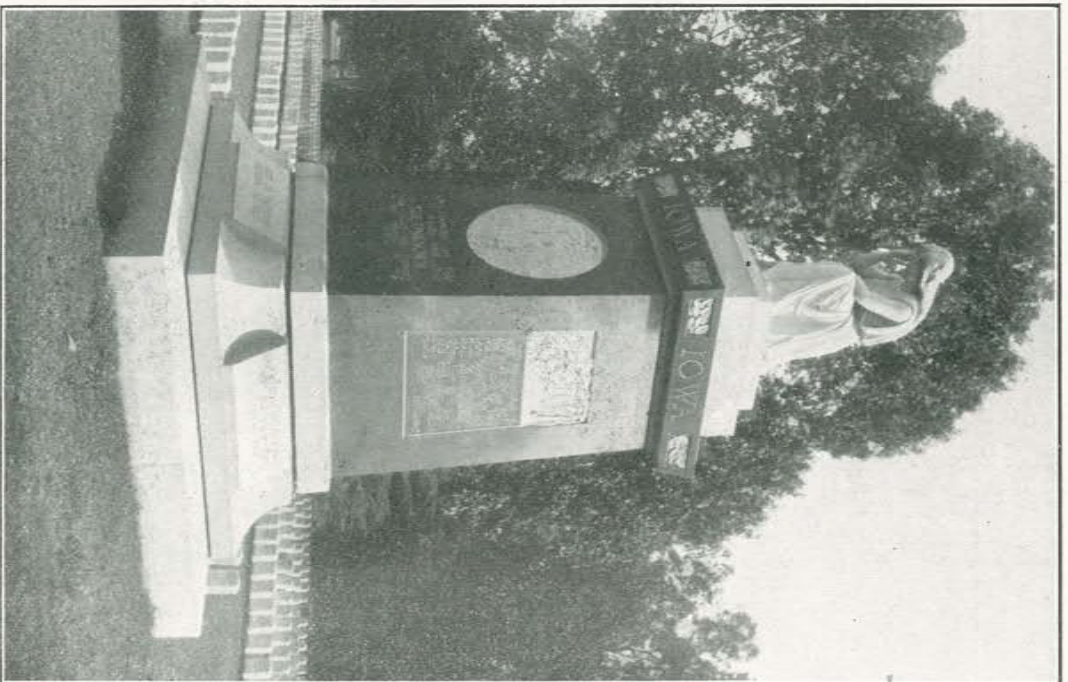
STAR FORT.

Mounted with six cannon.  
Capt. "Hy" Wirz' office at Sign Board.



INDIANA.

Indiana mourns her fallen heroes, the 702 brave sons, who for the country they loved, gave up their lives in Andersonville Prison from February, 1864 to April, 1865.



IOWA.

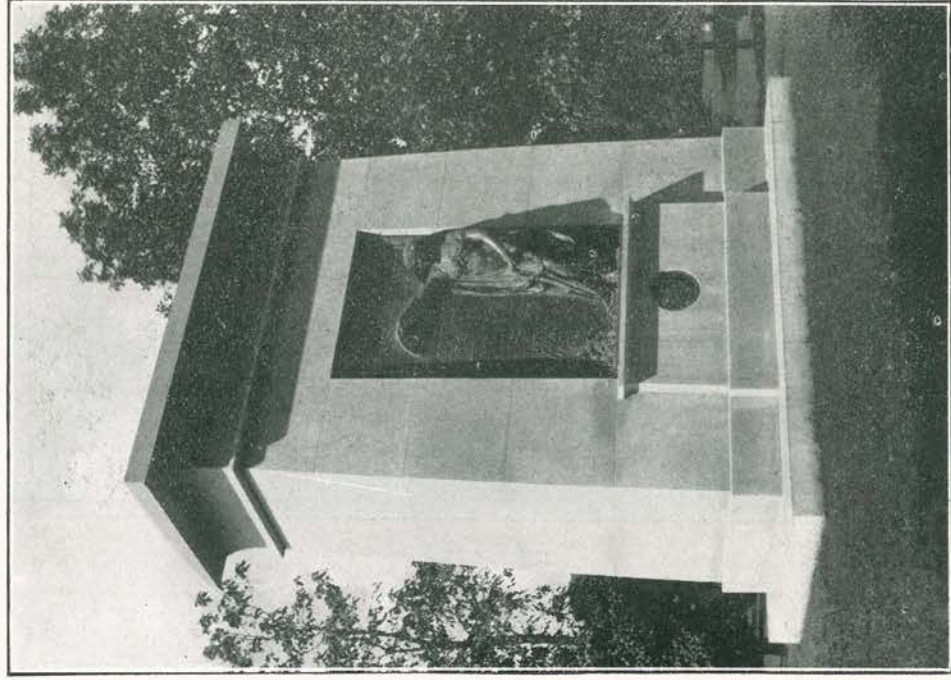
"Death Before Dishonor."

Underneath this legend is recorded the names, company and regiment of 214 Iowa soldiers who died while in prison here.

"Iowa Honors the Turf that Wraps Their Clay."

Erected A. D. 1905.

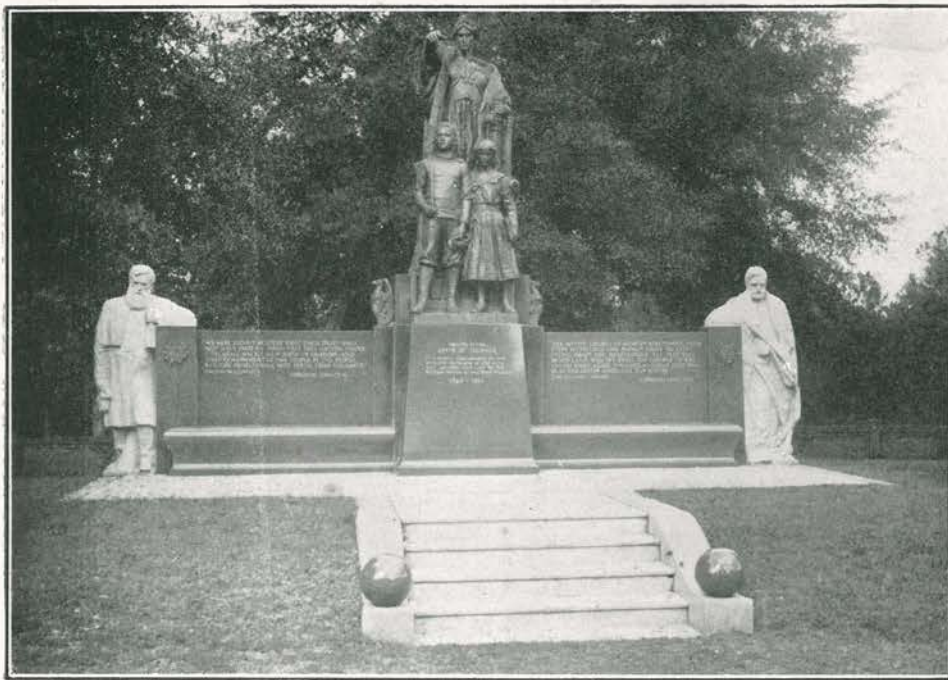




NEW YORK.

---

Known dead 2,529.



ILLINOIS.

---

Erected by the state of Illinois in grateful remembrance of the patriotic devotion of her sons who suffered and died in the military prison at Andersonville, Georgia' 1864-1865.

---

Known dead 924.



CONNECTICUT.

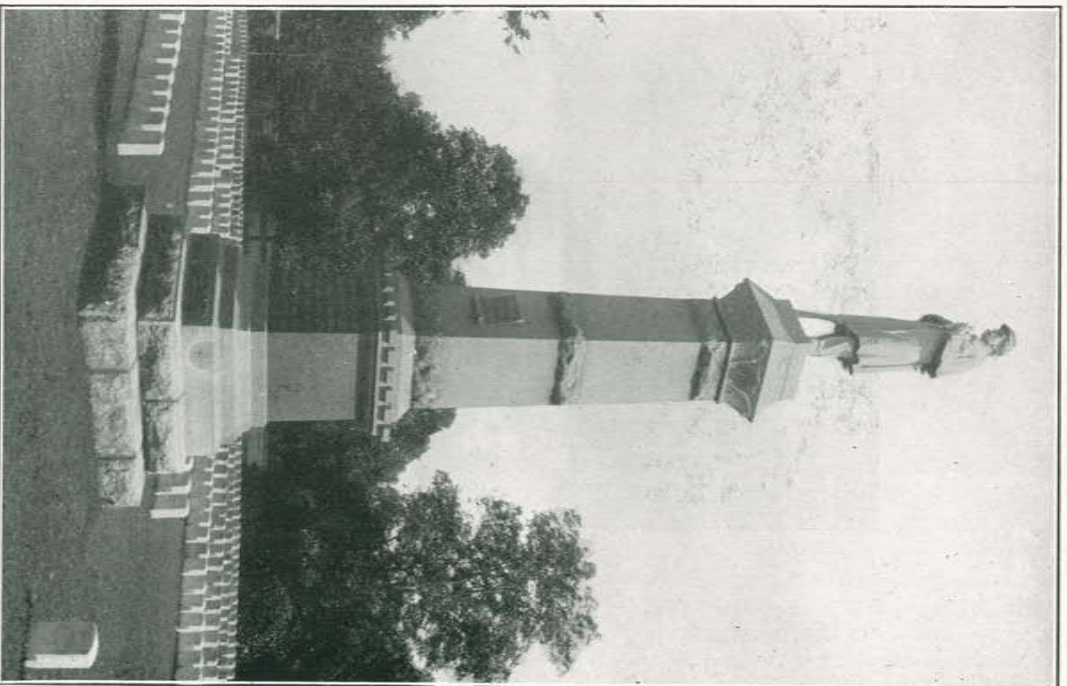
---

In memory of the men of Connecticut who suffered in southern  
military prisons 1861-1865.

---

Prisoners died at Andersonville 306.



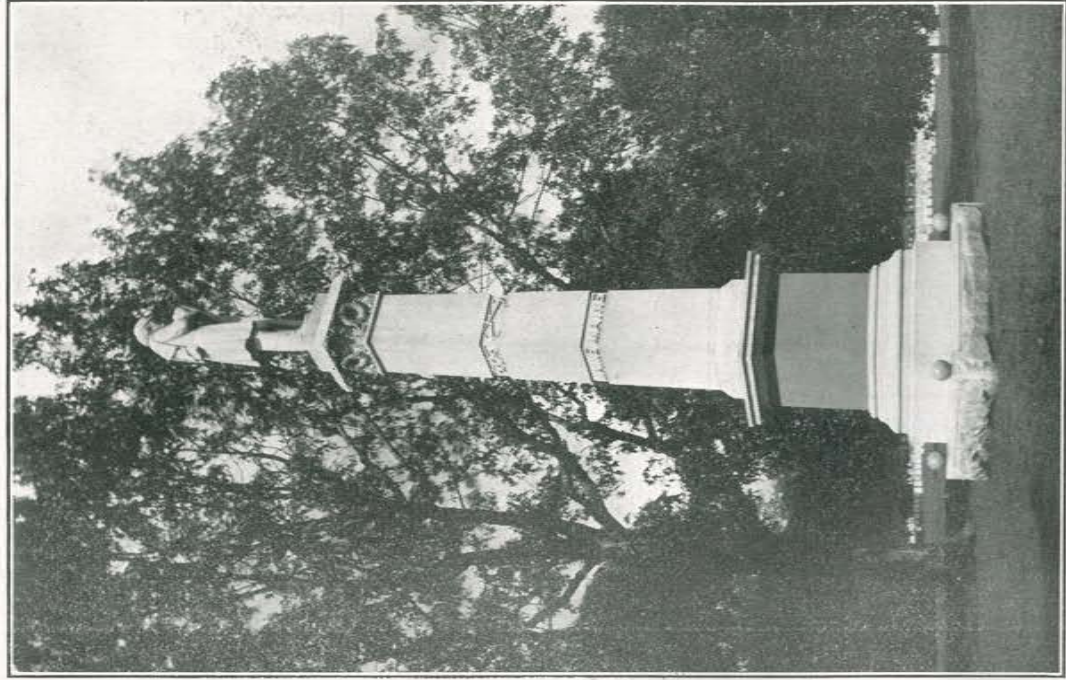


NEW JERSEY.

**"Death Before Dishonor."**

Erected by the state of New Jersey in commemoration of the fidelity and heroism of her soldiers who died at Andersonville Confederate Military prison, Georgia in faithful adherence to their pledge of patriotism.

Number of dead 255.

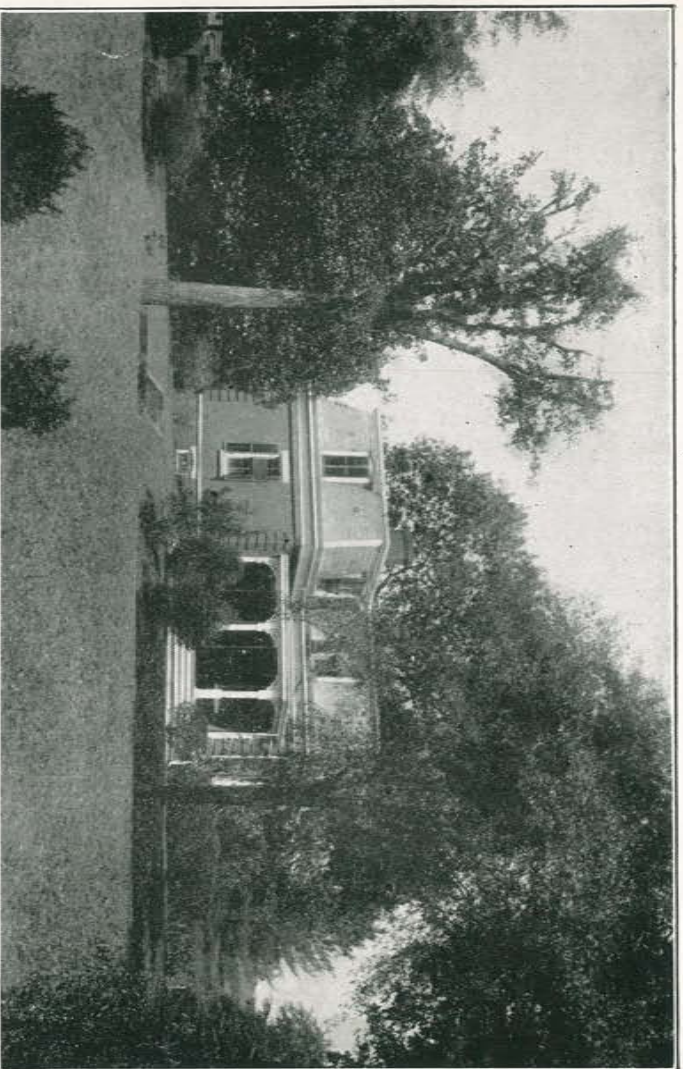


MAINE.

**"Death Before Dishonor."**

In grateful memory of those heroic soldiers of Maine who gave their lives that the Republic might live and those daring to die, yet survived the horrors of Andersonville Military Prison 1864-1865.

Known dead 252.



SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE, CEMETERY.

### Number of Union Soldiers Buried at Andersonville

Maine .....	252	New Hampshire .....	153
Vermont .....	248	Massachusetts .....	800
Connecticut .....	306	Rhode Island .....	74
New York .....	2529	Pennsylvania .....	1863
New Jersey .....	189	Maryland .....	189
Delaware .....	42	Virginia and West Virginia .....	285
North Carolina .....	19	Tennessee .....	730
Kentucky .....	444	Ohio .....	1072
Indiana .....	652	Illinois .....	924
Missouri .....	105	Iowa .....	214
Kansas .....	4	Minnesota .....	86
Wisconsin .....	260	Michigan .....	662
Alabama .....	16	District of Columbia .....	7
Territorial Infantry .....	2	U. S. Navy .....	121
U. S. Army .....	368	Undesignated .....	180
U. S. Colored .....	28		





NATIONAL CEMETERY FROM AVENUE SOUTH.

---

Colonel R. H. Chilton addressed a report as follows to the Secretary of War to the President, Jefferson Davis, August 18, 1864.

"The condition of the prison at Andersonville is a reproach to us as a Nation."

Signed  
Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General,  
C. S. A.

---

National Cemetery Contains Fifty Acres.



NATIONAL CEMETERY FROM AVENUE NORTH.

---

Testimony

Report of Colonel D. J. Chandler C. S. A.

Many,—20 yesterday—are carted out daily who have died from unknown cause and whom the medical officers have never seen—the dead are hauled out daily by the wagon load and buried without coffins.

No soap or clothing have ever been issued.

Signed

A. D. and I. G. C. S. A.



NATIONAL CEMETERY FROM SOUTH SIDE.

---

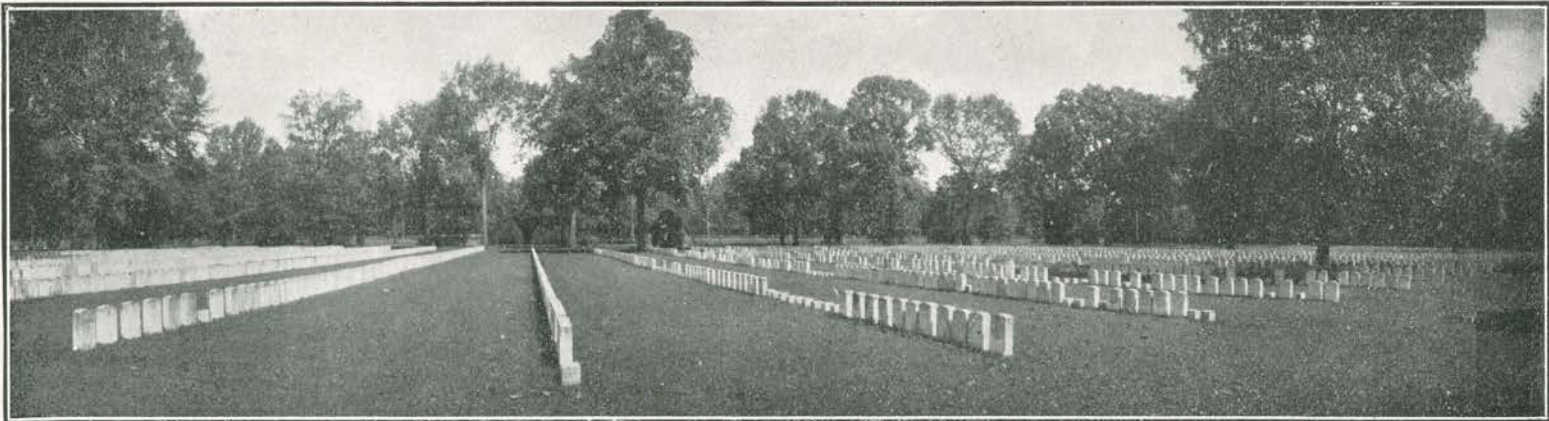
Testimony of James K. Davidson.

James K. Davidson, 4th Iowa Cavalry, was a prisoner at Andersonville from March, 1864.

Many prisoners died in the stockade. The hospital was then within the stockade; the dead men were carried on stretchers out to the gate, and from there they were hauled to the graveyard in wagons. Part of the time I was employed outside the stockade chopping wood, and part of the time driving a wagon from the hospital to the graveyard; I drove a wagon to the graveyard a little over a week, not two weeks, I think; there were two teams of us driving; we would each have from 50 to 75 men per day; we would throw them in the wagon just as we would wood; sometimes there were 20 or 25 at a load; we drove the same wagons back to the stockade loaded—sometimes with wood for the prisoners, sometimes with rations. We would go by way of the depot sometimes and get rations in the same wagon which we carried dead bodies; those were the orders, I believe from the quartermaster or the man who had charge of the teams; I believe his name was Duncan; I think he was an officer; he had charge of the cook-house.

I have heard Captain Wirz say that he was killing more damned Yankees there than Lee was at Richmond. That was said in August; he was in my wagon at the time; I had been to the graveyard with the dead men.





NATIONAL CEMETERY, EAST SECTION.

---

Testimony of C. E. Smith.

Charles E. Smith testified:

I am in the service of the United States. I belong to Company K. 4th United States Cavalry. I went to Andersonville on the 2nd of May, 1864, and remained till the 12th of September.

I saw four men shot in the stockade. I saw three shot together, the one ball taking effect on the three of them. One of them was killed instantly, another died in about an hour, and the third died in about two days afterwards. I think that was about the 10th of June. I do not know the men's names. They were shot at the creek by the sentinel on post. Only one sentinel fired. I saw a man shot on the north side of the stockade. He was reaching under the dead-line to pick up a piece of bread which some other man had thrown out of his haversack. The sentinel shot him from his post. I think this was about the 10th of May. I got there a very few days before. The man died instantly. I think the man was in his right mind, except from starvation and hunger. Captain Wirz was present at the first shooting. The man was stooping at the dead-line for water, when Captain Wirz told the sentry to fire at him. The sentinel hesitated and would not do it. Captain Wirz drew his revolver and said to the sentinel that if he did not shoot them damned Yankees he would shoot him. It was after that remark, by Captain Wirz, that the sentinel fired and hit these three men.



ANDERSONVILLE PRISON BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Sarah D. Winans—Chairman  
 Abbie A. Adams  
 Allaseba M. Bliss  
 Sarah E. Fuller  
 Carrie R. Read

Having improved and cared for maintenance of stockade since 1896.



COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF ANDERSON-  
VILLE PRISON PROPERTY.

1909-1910.

Kate E. Jones—Chairman  
Kate B. Sherwood  
Mary M. Gilman  
Mary M. North

Transferred to the United States A. D. 1910.



Does the apologist of Wirz and his fellow conspirators think that the American people will ever become reconciled to the erection of a monument to Wirz, whose only claim for such honor is the record of the charnel house of Andersonville?

Is it reasonable to ask the surviving Union soldiers and their friends and sympathizers to remain silent in the face of the grossly untrue inscriptions upon the Wirz monument?

**Report of Acting Assistant Surgeon T. J. Wells, C. S. A., in Charge of the Federal Sick and Wounded in the Stockade.**

"The entire grounds are surrounded by a frail fence. The patients and attendants, nearly two thousand in number, are crowded into this confined space and are but poorly supplied with old and ragged tents. Large numbers of them are without any bunks in the tents and lie upon the ground, oftentimes without a blanket. No beds or straw appear to have been furnished. The tents extend to within a few yards of the small stream, the eastern portion of which, as we have before said, is used as a privy and is loaded with excrements. I observed a large pile of cornbread, bones and filth of all kinds, thirty feet in diameter and several feet in height, smarming with myriads of flies, in a vacant space near the pots used for cooking. Millions of flies swarmed over everything and covered the faces of the sleeping patients, crawled down their open mouths and deposited their maggots in the gangrenous wounds of the living and in the mouths of the dead. Mosquitoes in great numbers also infested the tents, and many of the patients were so stung by the pestiferous insects that they resembled those suffering with a slight attack of measles.

"When a patient dies, he is simply laid in a narrow street in front of his tent until he is removed by Federal negroes detailed to carry off the dead. If a patient dies during the night, he lies there until the morning, and even during the day the dead were frequently allowed to remain for hours in these walks. In the dead house the corpses lie upon the ground and in most cases are covered with filth and vermin. The air of the tents was foul and disagreeable in the extreme and, in fact, the entire grounds emitted a most nauseous and disgusting smell. I entered nearly all the tents and carefully examined the cases of interest, especially those of gangrene, upon numerous occasions during the pathological inquiries at Andersonville and therefore enjoyed every opportunity to judge correctly of the hygiene and police of the hospital. I have seen men brought in from

the stockade in a dying condition, begrimed with their own excrements, and so black from smoke and filth that they resembled negroes rather than white men. This description of the stockade and hospital has not been overdrawn, as will appear from the report of the surgeon in charge, appended to this report."

---

#### **Testimony of James Mahan, a Rebel Soldier.**

"I have been in the Confederate service only as a private. I was afterward elected second lieutenant in the Third Georgia reserves. I had something to do with putting chains on the prisoners. The prisoners were brought from Captain Wirz' headquarters to the provo marshal's office by a guard. The provo marshal ordered me to take charge of the guard up at the blacksmith shop. I went up there with the prisoners to take charge of the guard and to see also that the prisoners got their irons on. A sergeant of Captain Wirz came over with the prisoners from his office. It was to see that these men had balls and chains put on them and linked together with a sort of collar around their neck and a chain attached to it. I took over thirteen men."

---

#### **Testimony of William M. Peebles, a Rebel Soldier at Andersonville, Detailed as a Clerk.**

"I saw several men in the stocks. I did not learn their names. They were federal prisoners. I was passing around one day during a hard rain and I saw a prisoner in the stocks. He seemed to be near drowning. I rode up and put an umbrella over him. I passed up to Captain Wirz' headquarters and told him that the prisoner was there and might drown. He remarked: 'Let him drown,' using an oath. His words as well as I remember were: 'Let the damn Yankee drown—I don't care.' It was during a very hard rain. The man's head was kind of erect and that was what caused me to make the report."

---

#### **Testimony of Rev. William John Hamilton.**

Rev. William John Hamilton, a Catholic clergyman, visited the prison in May, 1864. He resided in the south at the city of Macon, Ga., and voluntarily went to Andersonville in pursuit of his priestly office. Extracts from his testimony follow:



"I am a pastor of the Catholic church at Macon, Ga. I visited Andersonville three times. It was one of the missions attached to my church. I went there, I think, in the month of May, 1864, and spent a day there. The following week I went there and spent three days among the prisoners. and then returned and wrote a report to my bishop upon the condition of the hospital and stockade.

"The first person I conversed with on entering the stockade was a countryman of mine, a member of the Catholic church. I think his name was Farrell. I found him without a hat and without a jacket or coat. He told me his shoes had been taken from him on the battlefield. I found the boy suffering very much from a wound on his right foot; in fact, the foot was split open like an oyster; and on inquiring the cause he told me that it was from exposure to the sun in the stockade, and not from any wound received in battle. I took off my boots and gave him a pair of socks to cover his feet."

Q. "Can you speak more particularly as to the bodily condition of those inside the stockade, their clothing and the appearance of the men?"

A. "Well, as I said before, when I went there I was kept so busily engaged in giving the sacrament to the dying men that I could not observe much, but of course I could not keep my eyes closed as to what I saw there. I saw a great many men perfectly naked, walking about through the stockade perfectly nude; they seemed to have lost all regard for delicacy, shame, morality or anything else. I would frequently have to creep on my hands and knees into the holes that men had burrowed in the ground and stretch myself out alongside them to hear their confessions. I found them almost living in vermin in those holes. They could not be in any other condition but a filthy one, because they got no soap and no change of clothing, and were there all huddled up together. In going down one of the avenues I counted from forty to sixty dead bodies of those who had died during the night in the hospital. I have seen a person in the hospital in a nude condition—perfectly naked. They were not only covered with ordinary vermin, but with maggots. This was in the latter part of May."

---

#### Extracts of Evidence.

The judge advocate read to the court and put it in evidence—stating that he did so to show that



the Rebel War Department at Richmond was cognizant of the condition at Andersonville prison—a letter, of which this is a copy:

“HEADQUARTERS GEORGIA RESERVES, Macon, Ga., May 6, 1864: Under your orders to inform myself of the condition of the prison at Andersonville—there are now in the prison about 12,000 in an area of less than eighteen acres, with a stockade around it about fifteen feet high. I presume the character of the prison is well understood at Richmond, and therefore give no description of it. The danger of the prisoners escaping is not so great as I supposed.

“There is a fine stream within a few hundred yards of the present enclosure, across which, in my opinion, there should be made another enclosure with sufficient hospital buildings, two stories high, to accommodate from eight hundred to a thousand patients. Such an enclosure as I would suggest would need a fence of boards ten feet high, and would require but very few additional guards. The patients, upon admission into the hospital, should be well washed and a pool arranged on the side of the stream, and furnished only with a clean shirt, with which dress they would hardly attempt to escape, and with frequent roll calls they would be absent but a few hours before being detected, and would be readily caught by the dogs at hand for that purpose. E. J. ELDRIDGE,

Endorsed:

Chief Surgeon Georgia Reserves,

MAJOR LAMAR COBB,

A. A. and I. G. Georgia Reserves, Macon, Ga.

---

#### Testimony of Nazareth Allen, a Rebel Soldier on Duty at Andersonville.

“I have seen the stocks, and seen men in them; I have seen several put in the stocks, and some ten or twelve in the chain gang; I know that one prisoner died in the chain gang or stocks, I won't be certain which; but I think the stocks; I think it was sometime in August 1864. I do not know what his sickness was; he appeared to be sick when I saw him; I saw him only once or twice and afterwards I saw him dead, I don't recollect how long afterward; I was passing there almost every day for several days. I cannot say how long he was confined in the stocks; there were several in the stocks; I do not know why this man was placed in the stocks; I think it was for trying to escape.

The stocks were between Capt. Wirz' headquarters and the stockade, on the road as you would take in going to the stockade.

---

The third specification in Wirz' trial was:

**Shooting to Death With a Revolver.**

The 3d specification is supported by the testimony of Geo. W. Gray, who states, that about the middle of September 1864—he and a comrade named Wm. Stewart, a private belonging to a Minnesota regiment went out of the stockade to carry a dead body, and that after laying it in the dead house, they were on their way back to the stockade, when Wirz rode up to them and asked: "By what authority they were out there?" That Stewart replied, they were out there by proper authority." Whereupon Wirz drew his revolver and shot Stewart, the ball taking effect in his breast and killing him instantly; and that the guard then took from his body some twenty or thirty dollars, which Wirz received and then rode away.

---

The Raiders as described by one of the prisoners was: "While we were in Richmond there were a number of acknowledged thieves, criminals, and bounty-jumpers, who had deserted the Rebel army. [The Rebels did not want them, but were holding them there. After we had been in Andersonville a few days they brought these men down and put them over on the south side of the creek to themselves. They immediately began preying on us. These noted thieves stayed in a little bunch to themselves, and we older prisoners knew them. They commenced to murder and rob the prisoners, when in July, on the third, their arrest was commenced, and after trial by a court martial, by a jury of thirteen sergeants selected from the newly arrived prisoners, with all due form of military law, were condemned and executed on the eleventh day of July. This was done by the permission of Captain Wirz, he guarding the marauders during their trial and delivering them to their executioners on the day set."

---

**"Unsealing of the Spring," by Rev. John L. Maile.**

"On Friday morning, August the twelfth, an ominous stillness pervaded nature. By the middle of the forenoon a dense, dark cloud was noticed in the southwest quarter of the horizon slowly creeping upward. It was above the tree tops, majestic and awful in appearance. A troupe of



small, scurrying, angry looking clouds seemed to form an advancing line to the vast mass of storm cloud. The onward movement quickened, and soon the front of the mountain of approaching clouds assumed a gray appearance, caused by the mighty downpour of water which, more nearly than anything else, seemed a continuous cloudburst. Crashes of thunder broke over our heads, and flashes of lightning swished around as if the air was filled with short circuits. The awful moving wall came toward us rapidly and we understood what was happening. The mighty deluge swept the clearing west of the prison; the swamp was quickly filled with great, swirling eddies which in a few minutes became swollen into the dimensions of a river; driftwood bore down upon the stockade, causing it to give away with a mighty crash; the heavy timbers were whirled across the prison as if they had been straws, and by the force of the impact carried away the rear stockade. From the batteries solid shot were fired over our heads, the roar of the guns chiming harmoniously with the thundering of the storm. So great was its fury that we felt that it must end or it would soon end us. Fortunately it ceased as suddenly as it came, the sun burst forth with an unwonted vigor and shone with brilliant effect upon the receding rain. Immediately after this antiphonal outburst a voice was heard from the north gate, ringing out in clear tones the thrilling words: 'A spring! A spring! A spring has broken out.' As soon as opportunity afforded we pressed our way to the spot and there, just below the north gate in the center of the space between the stockade and the dead line, at the point where the earth was most deeply excavated, the sloping surface had gathered the waters of the flood. The bottom of the trench was torn up some twenty inches, uncovering the vent of a spring of purest crystal water, which shot up into the air in a column, falling in a fan-like spray and babbling down the grade into the noxious brook. Looking across the dead line we beheld, with wondering eyes and grateful hearts, the fountain spring."

---

#### Testimony of Philip Cashmyer.

"For the last four years I was detective under General Winder. I was with General Winder from the time he commenced his duties as provost marshal until he died. I was his special confidential detective.



"Well, my duties were: Any important matters such as detectives have to attend to, I attended to for him, such as examining prisoners and making reports upon them and matters of that sort. I was admitted to his family, also. The relations existing between him and Mr. Jefferson Davis were very friendly indeed, very confidential. I often heard General Winder say so. I often saw him come and go from there. I remember when an effort was made by Generals Bragg and Ransom to have him removed, Mr. Davis—President Davis—was his special friend. When the order relieving General Winder came from the war department he took it and went up to Mr. Davis. The order was one relieving him from duty in Richmond. He took it and went over to see President Davis, and he indorsed on it, as well as I can recollect, that it was 'entirely unnecessary and uncalled for.' After that General Winder was sent to Goldsboro, N. C., to take the field. He was there a week or two and an order came for him to go to Andersonville and take command there. His powers were not extended for some months after that; they were then. They made him commissioner general—commissary general of prisoners. They called him commissioner general. As well as I can recollect, the order sending W. S. Winder to Andersonville to lay out the prison came from the war department, General Winder desired to send him, and the war department sanctioned it. I saw the son go with the general down to the war department and come from there."

---

#### Confederate States of America, Surgeon General's Office.

RICHMOND, Va., August 6, 1864.—Sir: The field of pathological investigation afforded by the large collection of Federal prisoners in Georgia is of great extent and importance, and it is believed that results of value to the profession may be obtained by a careful investigation of the effects of disease upon a large body of men subjected to a decided change of climate and the circumstances peculiar to prison life. The surgeon in charge of the hospital for Federal prisoners, together with his assistants, will afford every facility to Surgeon Jones in the prosecution of his labors ordered by the surgeon general. Efficient assistance must be rendered Surgeon Jones by the medical officers, not only in his examinations into the causes and symptoms of the various diseases, but especially in the arduous labors of post mortem examinations. The medical officers will

assist in the performance of such post mortems as Surgeon Jones may indicate, in order that this great field of pathological investigation may be explored for the benefit of the medical department of the Confederate army.

S. P. MOORE, Surgeon General.

SURGEON ISAAH H. WHITE,

In Charge of Hospital for Federal Prisoners at Andersonville.

---

Reader, can you indulge the thought that Jefferson Davis and his cohorts were not perfectly aware of the condition and horrors of the charnel house stockade prison at Andersonville, when his more humane officials reported to him that the Confederate military prison at Andersonville "is a disgrace to us as a nation?"

---

#### Testimony of Dr. G. L. Rice, C. S. A.

\* Extract: "I was on duty at Andersonville from about August 1, 1864, until about the middle of March, 1865. I saw the hounds at Andersonville almost every day. I know that at one time when I was living in a little tent I lost my pocketbook; the hounds were brought and put on the track; that was a few days after I got there. I saw them nearly every day after that. I one day saw a man who was torn by them. He was knocked up very badly. His skin was not torn but you could see the blue marks of the print of the dogs' teeth. I happened to be passing Captain Wirz' headquarters about that time. They brought the man up and I asked someone what was the matter with him. He could hardly walk, and seemed to be bent over, from the effects of the scurvy, I presumed. I soon found that he had made his escape the night previous and had been brought in by the man who had the dogs—had been caught by them. I saw the marks of teeth on the man's flesh. I have no idea what the month was. The man was nearly naked; he had nothing on but a shirt, I think. They told me he had had his clothes torn off by the dogs; that he attempted to climb a tree and that the dogs pulled him down. I saw two dead bodies there during the time I was on duty, one in the stockade and one in the hospital. The one in the hospital was shot through the breast; another was a poor crippled man who walked up to the paling and the sentry shot him.



ANDERSONVILLE, Ga., May 7, 1865.—General: It is with great reluctance that I address you these lines, being fully aware how little time is left you to attend to such matters as I now have the honor to lay before you, and if I could see any other way to accomplish my object I would not intrude upon you. I am a native of Switzerland and before the war was a citizen of Louisiana, and by profession a physician. Like hundreds and thousands of others, I was carried away by the maelstrom of excitement and joined the Southern army. I was very seriously wounded at the battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, and have nearly lost the use of my right arm. Unfit for field duty, I was ordered to report to Brevet Major General John H. Winder, in charge of Federal prisoners of war, who ordered me to take charge of a prison at Tuscaloosa, Ala. My health failing me, I applied for a furlough and went to Europe, from whence I returned in February, 1864. I was then ordered to report to the commandant of the military prison at Andersonville, Ga., who assigned me to the command of the interior of the prison. The duties I had to perform were arduous and unpleasant, and I am satisfied that no man or will justly blame me for the things that happened there, and which were beyond my power to control.

I do not think that I ought to be held responsible for the shortness of rations, for the overcrowded state of the prison (which was itself a prolific source of fearful mortality), for the inadequate supplies of clothing, want of shelter, etc., etc., still, I now bear the odium, and men who were prisoners have seemed disposed to wreak their vengeance upon me for what they have suffered—I, who was only the medium, or, as I might better say, the tool in the hands of my superiors. This is my condition. I am a man with a family. I lost all my property when the Federal army besieged Vicksburg. I have no money at present to go to any place, and even if I had, I know of no place where I can go. My life is in danger, and I most respectfully ask of you help and relief. If you will be so generous as to give me some sort of a safe conduct, or, what I would greatly prefer, a guard to protect myself and family against violence, I should be thankful to you; and you may rest assured your protection will not be given to one who is unworthy of it. My intention is to return with my family to Europe, as soon as I can make the arrangements. In the meantime, I have the honor, general, to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MAJOR GENERAL J. H. WILSON U. S. A.,

H. WIRZ, Captain, C. S. A.

Commanding Macon, Ga.



In Goldwin Smith's "Reminiscences," published in McClure's for September, 1910, are found some observations of the Civil war. He had been for forty years one of the foremost thinkers of North American scholars. Of prison life during the war, North and South, he said:

"It seemed to me that in the North, generally, there was a remarkable absence of truculence. The determination was fixed to subdue the South and restore the Union. But I heard few expressions of thirst for revenge, such as were heard the other day from the loyalists of Cape Town. Prisoners of war were well treated. I visited the prison at Chicago and saw that its inmates were well fed and were suffering no hardships beyond that of confinement. If they died under imprisonment it was as the eagle dies. I visited the prisoners' hospital at Baltimore, went through every part of it, and satisfied myself that the treatment was good. My visit was unannounced. On Thanksgiving day the table was spread with the good things of the season. I record this as an answer to the charges of cruelty rife at the time in England. It was the more notable as the treatment of Federal prisoners in some of the Confederate prisons was known to be inhuman. In the Andersonville prison it was devilish and such as no want of resources on the part of the captors could excuse. I saw the first batch of prisoners at Annapolis exchanged from Andersonville. They were living skeletons. No laws of war can warrant the detention of prisoners whom a captor cannot feed. They ought to be released on parole."

---

More died in this prison of the South in four months than died in the twenty-five prisons in the North during the entire year of 1864.

---

The monument to Wirz may stand with its misleading and false inscriptions; the children in the schools of the south may be taught, as the young lady informed General Ketcham that they were being taught, how atrocious was the conduct of the Union officers and how humane and just was the conduct of the Confederate officers, but the truth of history can never be effaced.

---

"Who tasted death at every breath,  
And bravely met their martyrdom."

