

# Jonathan R. McGuffin

## Finding His Final Resting Place

By Thomas Anderson Phelps

(July 13, 2015)

(amendment - April 10, 2018)

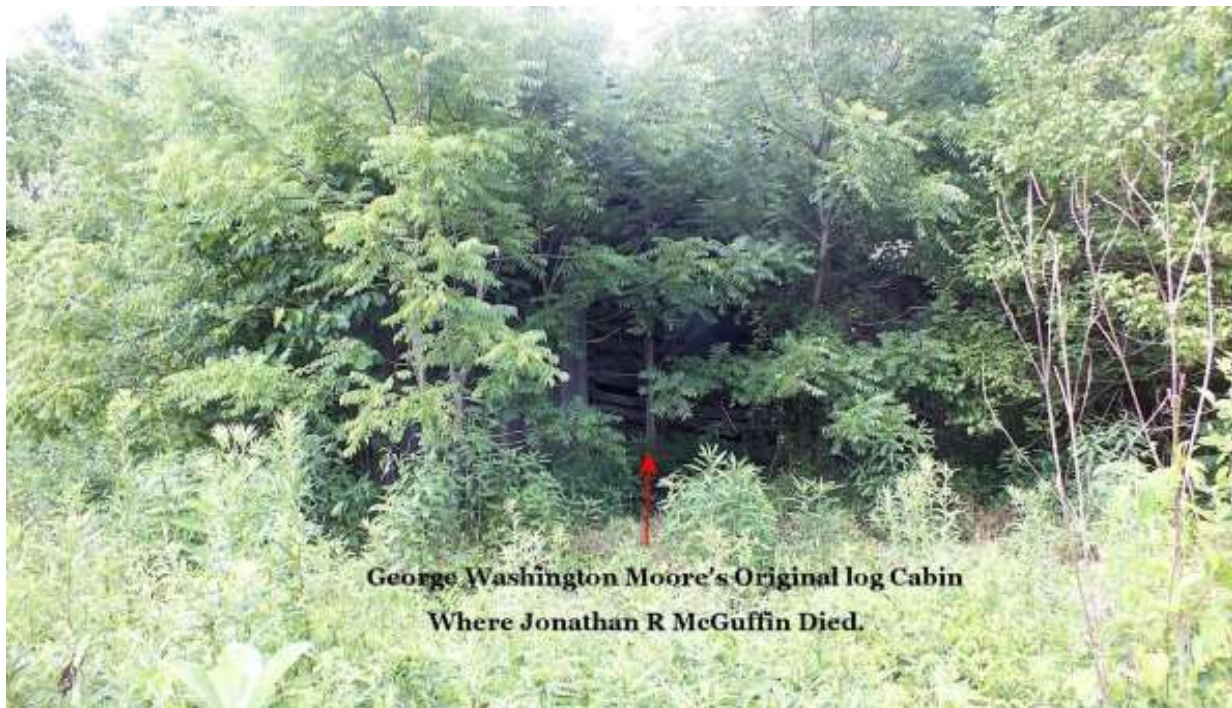
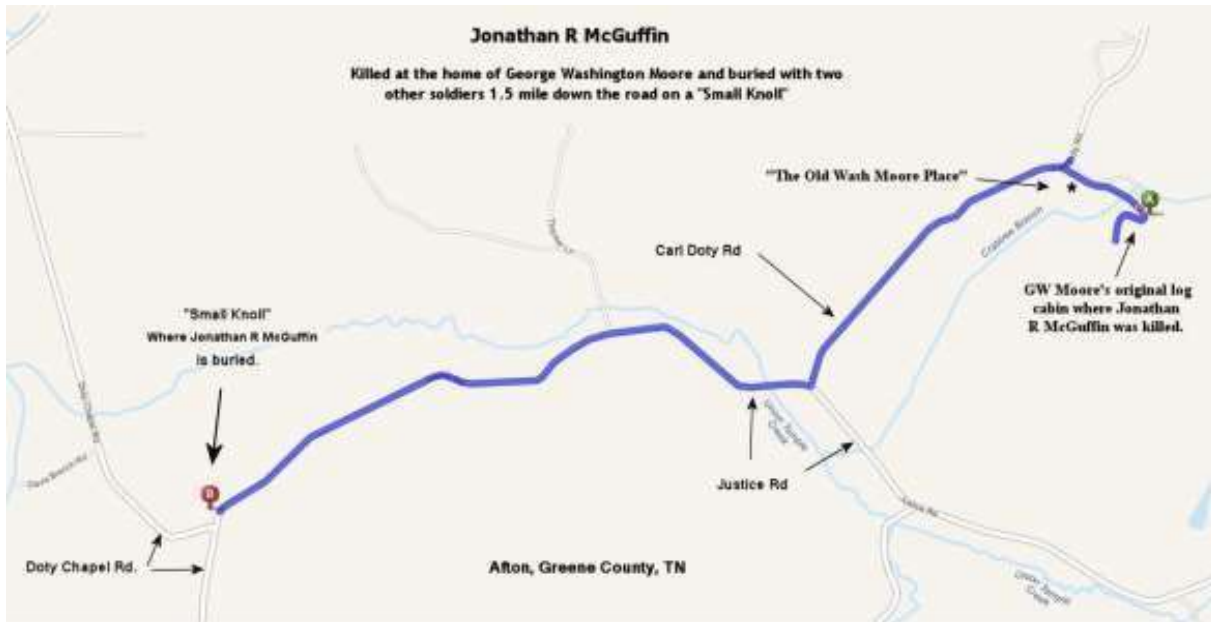


This is a supplement to the story “Origins of the McGuffin Family”, written by my mother, Audrey Taylor McGuffin Phelps. Mother was the great granddaughter of Jonathan R. McGuffin, making me a proud great great grandson. The genealogy work that mother did was amazing, especially considering the limited resources and methods of collection that was available. She traveled to several libraries and courthouses in East TN to collect information but much of her work was done by writing letters and one on one communications. Like any good genealogist, she always shared her gained knowledge.

Wanting to find the location of Jonathan’s grave and having the advantage of more readily available information, I searched the internet for clues and found a Moore family website that led to a Bushong family website that led to a 1971 newspaper article that discussed the Civil War incident that had occurred in East Tennessee. A Bushong family member emailed me a copy of the article. The article was based on an interview with Clarence Ivan Hawkins who lived in the area all his life and was very familiar with this and many other stories of this period. The article was titled “Lost Mountain Ain’t Lost” but it focused on a story about Captain Jackson Decatur Bushong, who we later discovered was Jonathan’s commanding officer. Part of the article and pictures were missing from the article. Later, I was able to get an original copy of the article that was printed in the November 13, 1971, edition of “The Sun Week-ender” in Greenville, TN.

With a little work and information from this article, I was able to locate Cliff Hawkins, the son of Clarence Ivan Hawkins. I spoke with Cliff by phone and he told me that he knew the story very well as told to him by his father. He could see the “small knoll” from his house and would be glad to show me this as well as the “Old Wash Moore Place” where they were killed. An appointment was made and I traveled with my wife from South Carolina to Greene County, TN to find the final resting place of my GG Grandfather Jonathan R McGuffin. See below for a map that shows where they died

and then were buried on the “Small Knoll” and a picture of the original log cabin of George Washington Moore that was later referred to as “The Old Wash Moore Place”.



Cliff was very generous with his time and confirmed the story as outlined in the article. He added that the three men were supposedly "bushwhacked", meaning that they were shot as they came out of the house. He added that there were both union and confederate sympathizers in the area and it was thought that one of them notified the union army of the three spending the night at the Moore place. It was left for the women to bury the soldiers. The women chose not to bury them in the family cemetery, instead they took them down the road a piece and buried them on the "small knoll" shown below.



According to Cliff Hawkins, over time there were about 10-12 other burials on the “Small Knoll” that were poorly marked with large stones. However, several years back, the landowner supposedly removed all the stone markers and used them to help fill up an old unused water well. The Cemetery is now part of a field that is used to produce hay. The community was very upset when they found out that the headstones had been removed but nothing was ever done about it.

Mother said in her history that they were buried near Roaring Springs in Sullivan County, TN. She never located this place because it is in Green County, TN.

Shown below is a picture of Roaring Springs which is 0.2 mile down the road from the “small knoll”. How she discovered this with her limited resources is a testament to her persistence and hard work. The springs powered a historic Grist Mill used by early settlers until 1941.



Another issue was the date of this incident. We know from the Bushong headstone at Blue Springs Cemetery in Mosheim, TN, about 18 miles away, that Jonathan died on April 4, 1865, which was 5 days before the official end of the war on April 9, 1865. As mother said, the three soldiers may have been returning home after being released by their commanding officer knowing that their cause was lost. We now know that General Vaughn and his Brigade were fighting guerrilla type operations until 30 days after the war ended. They moved to near Charlotte, NC before laying down their arms.



Shown below is the beautiful mountain view taken near the final resting place of  
**Jonathan R McGuffin.**



### **April 10, 2018 Amendments:**

A concerted effort was made to relocate Jonathan's remains to near his wife Ellen in nearby Mosheim, TN. The effort failed primarily because he was buried with a fellow soldier and there was no way to identify and separate their remains which created a legal issue. Instead, a marble-bronze plaque (shown below) was placed at the foot of Ellen's grave in July, 2016.



### **A more detailed description of the burial site:**

The picture shown below was taken from the 1971 newspaper article and suggests the burial was under the large tree. This tree was in fact across Justice Rd which joins Doty Chapel at it's sharp bend in the road.

However, drawing a line down from the trunk of the tree to the corner of the field, is exactly where the grave was found using the ground penetrating radar. About 12-14 other unmarked graves were found located about 20-30 yds to the east (left in the photo).



Bushong was first buried on the knoll, probably under the big tree near the forks of these roads