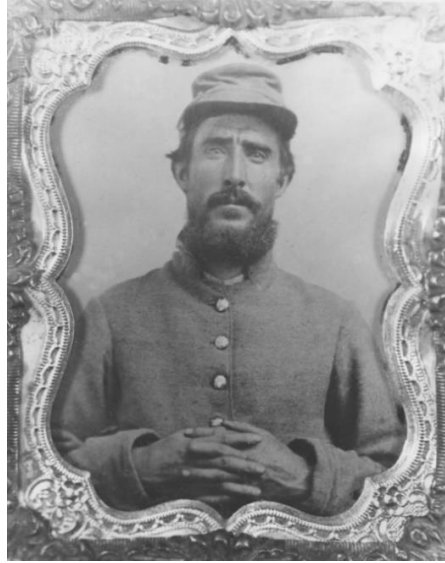


# Jonathan R. McGuffin

## Finding His Final Resting Place

By Thomas Anderson Phelps

(July 13, 2015)

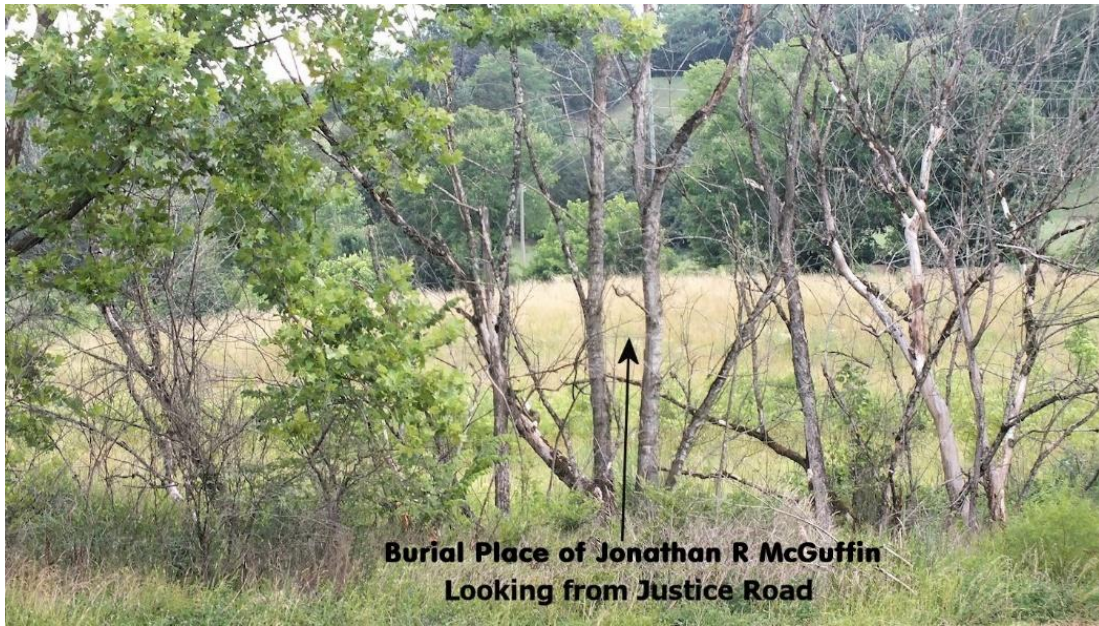


This is a supplement to the story “Origins of the McGuffin Family”, written by my mother, Audrey Taylor McGuffin Phelps. Mother was the great granddaughter of Jonathan R. McGuffin, making me a proud great great grandson. The genealogy work that mother did was amazing, especially considering the limited 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 incident. 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 was likely Jonathan’s commanding officer. Part of the article and some picture 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-End” at 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





According to Cliff Hawkins, over time there were about 10-12 other burials on the “Small Knoll” that were poorly marked. However, several years back, the land owner 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. Show 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 a mountain view taken near the final resting place of Jonathan R McGuffin.

