

FITZGERALD, GEORGIA

EVERGREEN CEMETERY

The dying moments of the Confederate government came in the dawn mists of a May morning deep in the nearby South Georgia forest. Private Lewis Clute, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, was there. Now he rests in Evergreen Cemetery a few short miles from the scene of one of the most dramatic moments in the history of the Confederacy and in the life of Private Clute, as he participated in the capture of Confederate President Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865.

A self-guided tour of Evergreen Cemetery will take you to the final resting place of Private Clute, U.S.A. Though he lived many years after the capture, living in Fitzgerald, the Colony City, among friends who were veterans of both the Confederate and Union armies, Clute retained vivid memories of the spring morning he witnessed the end of the Confederate Government.

Private Clute gave a sworn affidavit to the Leadership Enterprise newspaper regarding the appearance of President Davis at the time of his capture. Mr. Clute



stated, "Mr. Davis was plainly seen by him and the statement he was garbed in female attire was entirely false and without foundation whatsoever."

In Evergreen you will also find Georgia's last living Confederate veteran of the 380,000 who served. General William Joshua Bush died November 11, 1952. General Bush was a private with the 14th Georgia Infantry from Wilkinson County, in

the Ramah Guards. He enlisted July 9, 1861 and was discharged October 22, 1861. Men often enlisted for 90 days. He enlisted again in the Georgia Militia in October 1864 and surrendered at Stephen's Station, Georgia in 1865. He participated in the battles of Cross Keys, Milledgeville, Atlanta, and Griswoldville. He achieved the rank of general after the war in the United Confederate Veterans organization.

Fitzgerald's roots as a Colony City of Union veterans and its remarkable founding story are revealed in the town's streets named for both Union and Confederate generals.

Just as Union and Confederate veterans shared living together in Fitzgerald, the old veterans shared their final resting place in the town cemetery, Evergreen.

Your tour will bring you to the Union graves of Sergeant John C. Buckley, Medal of Honor winner Company G, 4th West Virginia Cavalry, and Jerome Moss, Company K, 16th Wisconsin Infantry, a drummer boy with Sherman. Moss became an optician in the Fitzgerald colony.

In Evergreen Cemetery these shapers of history, both Confederate and Union, both heroic and mundane, quietly share their final bivouac.

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