

Two men who died in Civil War camp remembered in Watkinsville

By [WAYNE FORD](#) Saturday, April 21, 2012



Photo by Wayne Ford / Staff

A memorial for two men who died in a Union prison camp during the Civil War was placed on the grounds of the Eagle Tavern Museum not far from the historical marker for Stoneman's Raid, when they were taken by Union soldiers. The memorial is scene here on April 20, 2012 in Watkinsville.

When a Union raiding party came through Watkinsville in August 1864 during the Civil War, the soldiers seized two local businessmen who never returned leaving a mystery that wouldn't be solved until many decades later.

“Their families went to their graves not knowing what happened to them — were they summarily shot or hanged outside town. What happened?” said Kaye Reeves, a current resident of the city and a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Almost a century passed before a Watkinsville woman researching old Civil War records discovered the men died in an Ohio prison camp. Sunday, those two men — George Jarrell and Jacob Klutz — will be

remembered when a granite monument is unveiled on the grounds of Watkinsville's Eagle Tavern Museum near a historical marker erected for Stoneman's Raid that was part of Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's forces that invaded Georgia during the war.

The Laura Rutherford Chapter of the UDC will host the dedication at 3:15 p.m., but an hour before, at 2 p.m., the Sons of Confederate Veterans will dedicate a flagpole and granite monument at the Watkinsville City Cemetery to honor the 300 Confederate soldiers buried in Oconee County.

The cemetery monument will also honor Robert Hale, a former SCV member who died about a year ago. Hale was instrumental in researching the services of more than 500 Confederate veterans in the area, said Gen. T.R.R. Cobb Camp SCV member Sydney Johnson of Bishop.

There are 34 known graves of Confederate soldiers in the cemetery and at least 250 elsewhere in the county, Johnson said.

During the dedication at the Eagle Tavern, David Evans, the author of "Sherman's Horsemen" published in 1996, will speak about Stoneman's Raid and specifically about the two men taken prisoner. At the time, Oconee was part of Clarke County.

"The Yankees snatched up several residents in Clarke County when they came through," Evans said. "Most either escaped or were released, but these two had the misfortune to be confined at Camp Chase in the bitter winter of 1864-65."

The two men died and were forgotten.

"The memory of what happened in Watkinsville that day simply faded as the years rolled by. Somebody once told me it only takes one generation to forget," Evans said.

Both men have graves at the Ohio prison camp with their status as "citizen" carved in stone.

Today, the UDC has rekindled the memory of what happened. Klutz was well known at the time because his family owned a large cotton mill at High Shoals, according to Reeves.

"We needed to put up a memorial for these two gentlemen," she said.

Both dedications services are open to the public and will include Civil War reenactors doing a gun salute.