

Civil War Soldier Grave

By Dave Halleman



This lone grave nestled in a wooded area is located in T42 R4 S28 SE ¼ of the SE ¼.

This grave was visited November 14th, 2001 by Dave Halleman.

The tract was originally located by James Rogers on November 28th, 1851, per warrant deed # 10612 act of September 28th, 1850, as recorded in Original Entries Book 2.

Recorded in Book K at Page 552, dated March 16th, 1862, Nancy Rogers, Executrix of the estate of James Rogers, deceased, deeds to William Clark Jones, for \$40.⁰⁰, "...SE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 28 Township 42 Range 4, containing 40 acres, it being Warrant #10612 for 40 acres issued in favor of James Rogers..." No mention of grave.

The next document, dated 17 November 1869, was a warrant deed from William C. Jones and his wife Anna, of Jefferson County, to John Beackler (sic), of Jefferson County, for \$1150.⁰⁰ "All the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ Section 34 Township 42 Range 4, containing 40 acres. Also the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 28 Township 42 Range 4, containing 40 acres, the said *William C. Jones reserves ¼ acre on the north line including a grave...*" recorded in Book 2 at Page 239.

And in Book 38 Page 425, on January 21st, 1893, John Bechler and his wife Mary sell the tract to Joseph F. Nuelles "...the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 28 Township 42 Range 4 containing 40 acres +/- . And the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ Section 34 Township 42 Range 4, Also the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 28 Township 42 Range 4 *out of which there is reserved ¼ acre on the north line including a grave*, containing in all 120 acres."

The property owners who have lived in this area for 80+ years related the story behind this gravesite. According to legend a Civil War Soldier, wounded in a battle "down south", was on his way home to Illinois. Passing through Jefferson County, he stopped at the Jones' cabin to seek shelter to rest for the night. As fate would have it he passed while staying there. The Jones' buried him in the back yard on the property line the next day. No name has ever been passed down and is unknown today. When the Jones' sold the land they "excepted out" the burial site.

The location of the grave remained known only to a few persons in the general vicinity until, while doing research on the Bechler Cemetery located about a mile down the road, I happened upon a deed of John Bechler. Reading this deed to see if it was the correct property, I

noticed that it was a different tract than the one the Bechler Cemetery was located on. Knowing the location of the John Bechler tract I chanced to stop at a farm to seek permission to photograph the monuments in Krumsick Cemetery for an article. While talking to the property owner, he knew of and showed me the location of the Civil War Soldier's Grave and related the story behind this burial. This allowed me to put together the pieces for this article.

Although William Jones "excepted out" this ¼ acre it feels wrong to call it "Jones' Cemetery" as the soldier is the only one buried there. Therefore I am placing the "official" name of this site as *Civil War Soldier's Grave* to honor this unknown fallen veteran.

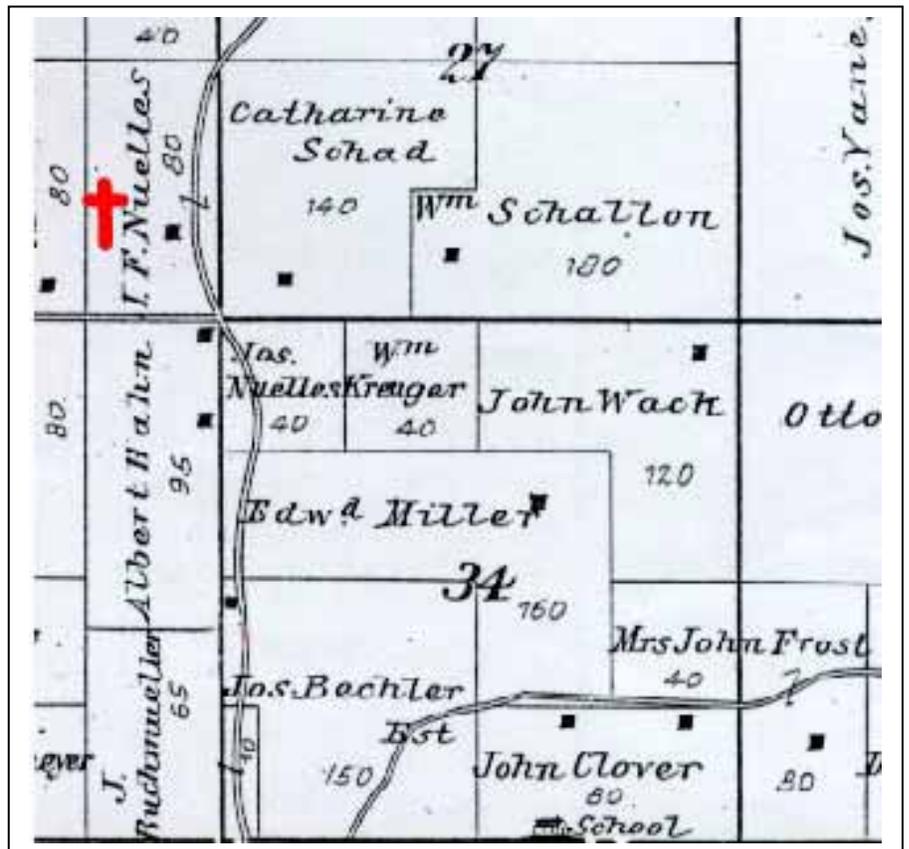


As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 the John Bechler is in possession of the property. The cross I added to the photo to denote the location of this family cemetery.

The "Bele" located to the south of the cemetery is unknown.

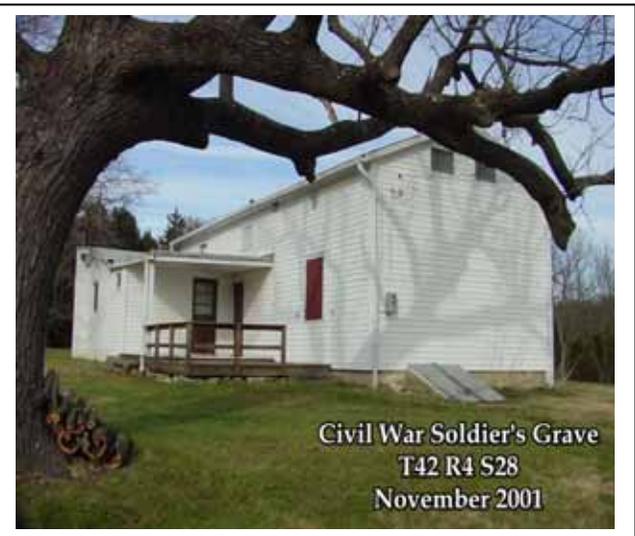
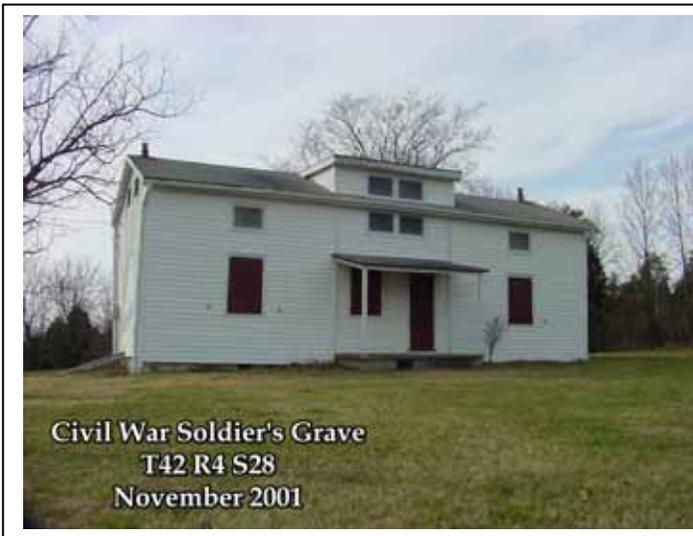
By 1898 J(oseph) F. Nuelle has ownership of this tract. As before I added the cross to show location of this graveyard.

The school located on the Clover property was Mount Olive School.





As can be seen in the above photos and on top of the title page all that remains of this site is a slightly raised mound of dirt with fieldstones used for head and foot monuments. It is located in a secluded wooded area and perhaps is a fitting for a Civil War Veteran. The name of this veteran is unknown.



In the two above photos we see a covered over log cabin with an enclosed “dog-trot”. It is unknown if this log two room log cabin was where the soldier died. However this is very likely. The grave is in the wooded area behind the cabin.

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