

Death Records of Cooper Countians in Alton, Illinois Prison

Name	Rank, Company, State	Date and Place of Capture	Date of Death Cause of Death Place of Burial
Beek, William C	PVT, 19th South Carolina	06/02/62 Booneville, Missouri	07/31/62
Stamps, Elijah	PVT, F Nichols Texas	10/18/65 Boonville, Missouri	01/19/65 Chronic Diarrhea
Chambers, Samuel	PVT, Cooper Co., Missouri	12/19/61 Milford. Missouri	02/24/62 Pneumonia
Collins, Moses A	SGT, B 2nd Arkansas Cav.	10/14/64 Bonneville, Missouri	12/24/64 Laryngitis
Early, G M	PVT, 1st Arkansas	10/19/64 Boonville, Missouri	02/10/65 Pneumonia Smallpox Island
Harper, L B	PVT, A Fords Arkansas Battalion	10/14/64 Boonville, Missouri	01/13/65 Pneumonia
Grant, W S	PVT, Coffees Missouri	10/18/64 Boonville, Missouri	01/10/65 Dysentary
Kelly, J W	PVT, I 2nd Arkansas	10/30/64 Boonville, Missouri	02/06/65 Pneumonia State Ground
Mahaw, Jas W	PVT, Cooper Co., Missouri	03/04/62 Marshall, Missouri	06/07/62 ?
Miller, James	CONSCRIPT, Cooper Co., Missouri	10/25/64 Cass Co., Missouri	01/08/65 Typho Malaria
Nelson, A J	PVT, E 43rd Arkansas	10/14/64 Cooper Co., Missouri	01/28/65 Variola
Ogden, Martin	PVT, Missouri State Guard (unassigned Recruit)	11/01/64 Cooper Co., Missouri	11/23/64 Chronic Diarrhea
Ravel, G W	PVT, Kitchens Missouri (shanks)	10/01/64 Boonville, Missouri	02/19/65 Erysipelas
Tippett, M J	PVT, I Nichols Texas	10/18/64 Boonville, Missouri	02/06/65 Variola Smallpox Island

Toler, Jackson	CONSCRIPT, Cooper Co., Missouri	11/09/64 Fayetteville, Arkansas	01/18/65 Diarrhea
Webster, James	PVT, K 1st Arkansas	10/19/64 Boonville, Missouri	12/22/64 Chronic Diarrhea

The following is from <http://www.altonweb.com/history/civilwar/>

During the next three years over 11,764 Confederate prisoners would pass through the gates of the Alton Prison. Of the four different classes of prisoners housed at Alton, Confederate soldiers made up most of the population. Citizens, including several women, were imprisoned here for treasonable actions, making anti-Union statements, aiding an escaped Confederate, etc. Others, classified as bushwhackers or guerillas, were imprisoned for acts against the government such as bridge burning and railroad vandalism.



Conditions in the prison were harsh and the mortality rate was above average for a Union prison. Hot, humid summers and cold Midwestern winters took a heavy toll on prisoners already weakened by poor nourishment and inadequate clothing. The prison was overcrowded much of the time and sanitary facilities were inadequate. Pneumonia and dysentery were common killers but contagious diseases such as smallpox and rubella were the most feared. When smallpox infection became alarmingly high in the winter of 1862 and spring of 1863, a quarantine hospital was located on an island across the Mississippi River from the prison.

Up to 300 prisoners and soldiers died and are buried on the island, now under water. A cemetery in North Alton that belonged to the State of Illinois was used for most

that died. A monument there lists 1,534 names of Confederate soldiers that are known to have died. An additional number of civilians and Union soldiers were victims of disease and illness.

www.mogenweb.org/cooper