

Memorial Service

Mrs. George Sizemore (Joyce), President of Marion Dragoons Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Flo Walter, Chapter Registrar, at the recent Memorial Service for Confederate Veteran John Proctor at Pine Level cemetery, Oxford.

Marion Dragoons Honor Grave of Confederate

Pine Level Cemetery, Oxford, was the scene of the recent Memorial and Dedication service for John Proctor, Confederate Veteran who served Co. K, 9th Florida Infantry, State of Florida.

The invocation was given by Chaplin Eleanor Redding which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the salute to the Confederate Flag, led by Marion Dragoons President Joyce Sizemore.

The grave marker denoting John Proctors service in the Confederacy was then unveiled by young descendant, great-great-great-granddaughter Rebecca Anne Watkins, who handed a floral arrangement to President Sizemore for placement at the grave.

Mary Beth Walter Watkins, great-great-granddaughter of John Proctor, then memorialized the veteran: "John Proctor was my great-great-grandfather. Statistics gleaned from the works of many researchers tell us that his descendants total 975. I know many are not recorded! Of the 975, 15 were his children and 960 grandchildren, 46 of which are great, great, great, great grandchildren.

"In 1857, John Proctor with his wife, Martha Ann Dillon, and 6 children, moved from Little Rock, South Carolina, to Eureka, then Pedro. Five years later, he was a soldier in the Confederacy at age 40, and wounded in the Battle of Olustee.

"In Florida, he and Martha had 3 more children; one of them was my great-grandfather, Mealy Manning, born at Eureka. Martha died in 1886 from measles which she contracted from the children of son Alfred and his wife Ophelia.

"A few years later John married Mary Elizabeth Beckham and they had 6 children. John died at the age of 86 and is interred here where so many of his relations and descendants are also buried."

President Joyce Sizemore at this time led in the Dedication of the Grave Marker:

"Nothing is ended until it is forgotten. That which is held in memory still endures and is real. We are grateful for the records of the past which bring inspiration and courage. We are appreciative of the lessons taught in Memorials to events and deeds of long ago. We pray that our lives may always be patterned to give such devotion and service as did our forefathers in

this great Southland. We, the members of the Marion Dragoons Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, now dedicate this marker in grateful recognition - of the noble service of John Proctor, Confederate Veteran.



Honoring Ancestor



Descendents of Confederate Soldier John Proctor at the recent dedication of his Confederate grave marker in Pine Level Cemetery at Oxford.

(Left to right) Leola LeHew, Mary Elizabeth Watkins, Arthur Gene Proctor, Lillian Perry, Flo Walter, Norman (Biffy) Proctor, Rebecca Anne Watkins (young girl), William Mills, Ralph Dillon Hackett, Merl Perry and Edith Lynn Houser.



John D. Proctors grave decorated for the memorial service.