

The Unknown Soldier's Grave.

Camp Meeting Herald.

Everybody who comes to Emig's Grove notices a lonely grave located at a prominent place a little to the right of the walk coming up from the railroad station. The old tenters are familiar with its history, but strangers who come to the Grove wonder why this grave is here, how it came to be here, and why it is nearly always covered with flowers during the camp meeting. Ever since camp-meetings have been held here this grave has been the centre of attraction on "Children's Day" of every year's camp. On this day orations and addresses were delivered generally by old soldiers, special music was furnished, and the children, under the management of Col. J. A. Stahle, decorated the grave with a profusion of beautiful flowers. The services held around this simple mound from year to year were always of an impressive character, and never failed to draw a large crowd of people.

M. L. Duhling, a prominent citizen of Manchester, Pa., furnished us with the following facts concerning this unknown soldier's grave, which may be of some interest to our readers and friends of Emig's Grove: On Sunday, June 28th, 1863, while a part of the rebel army was encamped at Emigsville, Mr. Peter Nace, then living only a few minutes walk south of the camp ground, found a dead soldier at Green Briar or Sand spring, located a few hundred yards southeast of the camp ground. He at once went to Manchester and reported what he had found to M. L. Duhling, then justice of the peace in that town. The coroner from York could not be procured immediately, and Mr. Duhling proceeded to the place where the dead soldier lay and at once empanelled a jury composed of the six following men to hold an inquest over the body: George Mathias, Sr., Daniel Hartman, Daniel May, Daniel Fry, Henry Metzger and Dewees Warner. To all appearance the body must have been carried there by two men, as two stout wooden sticks were partly under it, and then thrown head first into the briar bush grown over the spring. The man must have been dead several days, as the body was quite black. On the right side of his head was

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(Continued from First Page)

a large contusion which no doubt caused his death. There was nothing on his person by which he could be identified. He had in his pocket a comb, two matches, and a tobacco pouch containing a very small quantity of tobacco. He was dressed in a blue uniform, and a military cap was found about two rods away from the body which had "65 Pa." on it. The verdict of the jury was that the "man was murdered and robbed by persons unknown."

The undertaker, Louis Meyers, made a coffin and placed the body in it, and Constable John Bentz buried it near the spring where it was found. Some years afterward two telegraph operators, stationed at the office on the summit, desecrated the grave by unearthing the body and leaving the bones scattered about on the ground. When the first camp meeting was held at Emig's Grove, some kind hands replaced the bones in the grave and covered them up again, after which four evergreen trees, one at each corner of the grave, were planted by the following persons: Rev. J. C. Smith, M. L. Duhling, ex-soldier, J. H. Eppley, ex-soldier, and Mrs. Millard, ex-soldier's widow. A few years after this, the children, attending the campmeeting, collected money to purchase a suitable stone to mark the grave. Six or eight years ago the body was removed to the present place in order to make it more convenient for decoration purposes. A singular fatality has befallen those engaged in the closing scene of this tragedy. All are dead except M. L. Duhling and Dewees Warner.

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