

Millsaps Was Union Soldier In Major Battles of Civil War  
Article taken from a Chattanooga Newspaper – 1996  
by John Wilson



Jasper Newton Millsaps, who fought for the North in the Civil War, poses with his wife, Phoebe Caroline Maddux Millsaps.

Jasper Newton Millsaps trekked during the Civil War to Kentucky to fight to preserve the Union. The many letters he wrote his wife, Phoebe Caroline, from the battlefield have been preserved by family members.

The Millsaps were previously in the vicinity of Monroe, Roane and Blount counties. Jesse Millsaps had arrived in Tennessee by 1799 when he married Mary Hyder at Cater County.

It was at Blount County where Jasper Newton Millsaps was born in 1829. His mother was Jane Raulston, who was born in 1812 and was the daughter of **Moses Roulstone** and **Mary Denny** who were married at Jefferson County in 1803. Her grandfather was **Matthew Roulstone**.

Researchers have not been able to learn the name of the father of Jasper N. Millsaps. He is said to have "gotten up one morning and left on an errand but never returned. His wife waited seven years, then remarried.: Her second husband was George Bowers. Their marriage occurred in Roane County in 1844.

J.N. Millsaps had made his way to Harrison in Hamilton County by the mid-1850's. In 1856 he married Phoebe Caroline Maddux, daughter of Adam Maddux and Mary Ann Campbell. Her grandparents were John and Phoebe Cassidy Campbell, who were from Virginia.

J.N. Millsaps had a sister, Lydia, who married William J. Green, and a sister, Isabel, who married William McAnally.

The Millsaps lived for several years on the east side of the river, then they were joined by the Bowers family on Walden's Ridge above Daisy just before the Civil War. This was on land given by the father-in-law, Adam Maddux. They first lived on the Sequatchie County side, then built a house on the Ridge in Hamilton County about the 1880's.

It was February 25, 1862, when J.N. Millsaps enlisted as a private in Co. C of the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment Tennessee Voluntary Infantry. It was organized at Barbourville, KY, by Col. James T. Shelley of Roane County. The Federal unit took part in the

action around Cumberland Gap, then was at Stones River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Georgia campaign, and around Nashville.

He wrote his wife from Cartage, TN, reporting that he was “as fleshy as you ever saw me” and saying, “You stated that you would like to see me on the mountaintop with the Blue on and my enfield Rifle. I hope the time is near at hand when you will see it. I have no doubt ere this reaches you that many of the yankeys will have been through your section of the country. I long to be there and then I will show McRunels whose house he is searching and whose hogs he is killing. I hope to be able to pay all such men as him their just dues.”

He added, “Don’t let the Rebels discourage you in no wise for we will soon be at home. Never fear. Take good care of the children likewise yourself.”

Millsaps, while he was present for the fierce fighting around Chattanooga, was able to steal away for a joyous but brief reunion with his wife and children.

From a camp at Marietta, GA on August 2, 1864, he reported he was still in good health though “I have saw more from the time I saw you up to the present than I could rite in a day. I have saw a hard time and had to face more danger than I ever did in all my life before. But the Lord has brought me safe so far and hope he will hereafter.”

Millsaps noted, “I have a heep of connections in this army and we have been very lucky. We number some 8 or 10 and only two has been killed and one wounded yet. Thomas Daughtrey was killed and cousin Bill Jones was killed, and cousin Bill Ralston wounded.

Jasper Newton Millsaps was discharged from the army on April 4, 1865, at Nashville.

The Millsaps children were Mary Jane who married Perez Woodard Grant Jr., Cynthia Isabel who married Allen N. Smith, Tennessee Caroline who married George W. Lovelady, John Maddux who married Mary Elizabeth Henry, Rachael Missouri who married William Jackson Cox, Lydia Murtiller who married Robert Grant Varner, William Jarrett who married Birdie Zellum Thompson, Robert Samuel who married Lavina Chancey, James jasper who married Caroline Ellison, Nancy Malinda who married Joseph L. Hensley, George Darland who married Ethel Reynolds, and Adam Garfield who married Lillie Mae Dyke.

J. N. Millsaps was an active Baptist, and he helped establish the Mowbray Baptist Church as well as the First Baptist Church at Daisy. He was ordained a Baptist minister on June 3, 1876, at Union Fork Baptist Church near Soddy by fellow ministers, J.A. Barnes, Jones Posey Moon and Noah Moon.

Millsaps was a member of the County Court for over 20 years and still held that position when he died at his home on Walden's Ridge on January 3, 1905. He was 76. His wife had passed away in 1898.

The Millsaps parents and all their 12 children are buried on land he gave for a cemetery on Hotwater Road on Walden Ridge.

Adam G. Millsaps, the youngest son, continued to occupy the homeplace until 1937 when it was sold out of the family. It is presently owned by Glenn Skiles.

John Henry Millsaps, a son of John Maddux Millsaps, was on the staff at criminal Court and was country building inspector. Jasper Newton Millsaps, son Robert Samuel Millsaps, was deputy sheriff.

Several of the Millsaps were teachers, including Charles H. son of Adam G. Millsaps. He lived at Daisy and was a teacher and coach in the city and county schools. His brother, Willard Millsaps, was a outstanding athlete and teacher.

William Hobart Millsaps was the son of William Jarret Maillsaps, who was a coal mine operator. Hobart Millsaps began teaching after getting his master's degree at the University of Tennessee in 1939. Known as a strict disciplinarian and character builder, he was an outstanding principal at Red Bank high and then at Central High for 26 years. He married Myra Sue Bryant.

One of their sons, William Millsaps, is a newspaper editor in Virginia. Another son, Bryant Millsaps, was clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives then was Tennessee Secretary of State. Currently he is executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Of the 84 grandchildren of J.N. Millsaps, those still living are Blanche Owens, William Hensley and Lillian Sims, all of Soddy Daisy.

<http://www.epcc.edu/faculty/jesseh/Hyder-h2.htm>

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Jesse Millsaps' wife Mary (Polly) Hyder Millsaps was the dau. of Revolution War Soldier Michael Hyder [Sr.] & Elizabeth Woods Hyder. Michael Hyder came to the Watauge Settlement from Hampshire Co., Va. in the year 1766 or 1768. He was one of the earliest settlers on Watauga. He served in the Revolutionary War & was at the Battle of Kings Mountain Oct 8, 1780 ... [editor's note - rather it is thought that Michael Sr. was detailed out of this battle so that he could scout for indians to protect the Watauge Settlement. He was involved in 3 other Rev. War battles] ... above data on Michael Hyder is from Tenn. Records; Bible Records & Marriage Bounds compiled by Acklen; Gen. Pub. Co.; Baltimore ; 1967, p97.

Jesse Millsaps & Hyder Family: a family genealogical chart was constructed on the children of Michael Hyder Sr. by Fredrick Boren Hyder who was a descendant of Michael's son Jonathan, through James Edens Hyder. The list compiled in the early 1900's has been handed down through the Hyder family, and has been accepted by the D.A.R. as authentic. Most of the children are also recorded in Michael Hyder, Sr.'s will which was dated May 20, 1790, and is in

Jonesboro, Washington Co., Tn. The daughters Polly, Nancy, Katy & Martha were not mentioned in the will. [chart as following]:

"Michael Hyder, Sr.: Born about 1743, died June 25, 1970, buried in the Hyder Cemetery, Powder Branch, Carter Co., Tn. Married Elizabeth Wood(s) Dec. 2, 1764. She was born ca 1745, died Jan 3, 1841 & buried in the Hyder Cemetery.

The children of Michael Hyder, Sr. & Elizabeth Woods Hyder as given by family list by Fredrick Boren Hyder:

1. JOHN HYDER; b. Sept 14, 1765; d. Apr 15, 1833; m. Rose English May 23, 1789. She was born Feb 6, 1766 & d. Sept 12, 1818. 9 children.
2. MICHAEL HYDER, JR.; b. Oct 24, 1767; d. Oct 15, 1861; m. Martha Lockard Mar 9, 1797 who was b. Aug 1, 1775 & d. Aug 8, 1812; 6 ch
3. **MARY (POLLY) HYDER**; b. ca 1770, lived to over 90; m. **Jesse Millsaps** Ap. 2, 1799 in Carter Co., Tn. He was b. ca 1768, d. ca 1847; 13 ch; moved to Blount Co., Tn.
4. JACOB HYDER; b. Feb 16, 1776; d. May 18, 1854; a twin to Adam Hyder. m. Hannah Elizabeth Rockwell Jan 4, 1798. She was b. Jan 25, 1780 & d. June 7, 1862; 11 ch & went to Cocke Co. Tn.
5. ADAM HYDER; b. Feb 16, 1776; d. May 13, 1816. May have moved to Cumberland Co. Tn; a twin to Jacob Hyder [Sr.]
6. JOSEPH HYDER; b. 1779; d. June 29, 1864; m. Rhoda Edens 1802 who was b. 1786 & d. \_\_\_\_\_; 2 sons.
7. JONATHAN HYDER; b. Mar 3, 1783; d. 1861; m. Jean or Jane Edens who was a sister to Rhoda Edens that married Joseph. She b. Jan 22, 1783 or 84; d. \_\_\_\_\_; m. on Dec 13, 1805; 13 ch.
8. BEN HYDER; (from Fred's chart but he has a note saying "In Rutherford Co., NC census - 1790"); (some descendants question this as being Michael's son & suggest that it might be a brother)
9. NANCY HYDER; b. \_\_\_\_\_; m. Feb 19, 1806 to John Stoglin; went to White Co. Tn.
10. KATY HYDER; b. \_\_\_\_\_; m. A. Moore
11. MARTHA HYDER; (some dates are given as that of Martha Lockard Hyder so she may have been mistaken for a dau.)

#### HYDER FAMILY CEMETERY #1

This cemetery is in a wooded area on the west-northwest side of Rocky Point Mountain, off Poplar Grove Road, east of Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

#### THE 1991 TRIP TO TENNESSEE by JESSE K. HYDER & SON ALEXANDER

The Jacob Hyder Sr. Cemetery: To get to the cemetery you could start at the courthouse and travel east on Hwy 70 past Hwy 111, past Hwy 40 and turn left on Poplar Grove Rd. You will cross a bridge and come to a T in the road. If you turn left you will go toward the Hidden Hollow Park but instead turn right and go until you come to Hyder Mt. Rd. Turn left on Hyder Mt. Rd. until you come to a house on the left just off the road and to a barn on the right side across the road from the house that Randy Hyder lives in. After parking and asking permission to go to the cemetery Alex and I went through the gate by the barn and went up the hill to another metal gate.

Going over the electric wire and through the gate we crossed the open weedy field going just a little to the right until we came to an old road curving to the left through the trees. Looking through the trees on the left you can see many of the Hyder stones and you can enter the cemetery at a point of your choice. I noted that the new stones that I had noticed there in 1989 had been placed in their proper locations. Jacob Hyder Sr.'s new stone is right behind his old one and is much easier to read. His wife's stone is located about 10 feet to the right as you are reading the stone.

Alex and I found the cemetery to be overgrown with small brush, weeds, and poison ivy. Perhaps interested Hyder families in the local area can set up a care-taking fund from which someone could be paid on a regular basis to keep the cemetery cleared etc. Who would like to step forward for this project?

#### HYDER FAMILY CEMETERY #2

Located On Poplar Grove Road E. and across the road from Hidden Hollow Park. It is fenced but in poor condition. There were 19 unmarked graves counted and maybe more.

**Source:** FIRST FAMILIES OF TENNESSEE:

A Register of Early Settlers and Their Present-Day Descendants  
by East Tennessee Historical Society  
pg. 228:

**JESSE MILLSAPS:**

Born: 1768, place unknown; Died: 1847, Monroe Co., TN;

Married Mary "Polly" Elizabeth Hyder.

County Settled: Carter, TN: no record

Barbara M. Conant      Jonathan Conant      Rebecca Dawn Conant

Nancy Jane Millsaps Fischer      Larry Newton Millsaps

**MARY "POLLY" ELIZABETH HYDER MILLSAPS:**

Born: ca.. 1770, NC; Died: 1860, Monroe Co., TN; Married Jesse Millsap

County Settled: Watauga settlement, 1775;

Proof: father's residence

Edward Millsaps      Stephen Edward Millsaps