



Remembering Heroes: Memorial Day 2021



The grave marker in the Bryson City Cemetery with the earliest marked date of death is that of Sergeant Alfred Cline of Thomas's Legion. He survived the Civil War, but was killed a year later by RLD Burchfield, a member of Kirk's Raiders. The cemetery grounds were owned by the Cline family.



Epaphroditus “Epp” Everett (1830-1903), whose gravestone is in the foreground, also served in Thomas’s Legion. Epp was the first sheriff of Swain County, serving at a time when the challenges associated with post-Civil War tension and Reconstruction were significant. The Everett home was located in the vicinity of the old rock building on east Main Street.

Everett Street and Epps Springs are named for Everett. Just beyond his grave is that of his wife, Mary Kerr Everett. The angel beyond Mary’s grave marks the grave of their granddaughter, Fannie Everett Clancy, who died in childbirth a year after Epp.



Five Beck family siblings, buried at the foot of the gravel driveway on the east side, served in two wars. Charlie Beck, the oldest of the children of Samuel Thomas and Mollie Beck, is in the foreground. He was in the Spanish-American War, and along with Noah Seay, also buried in the BC Cemetery, was a prisoner of war in the Philippines. His younger siblings Bertie Beck Sigmon, Oscar, Ralph, and Samuel Roy Beck all served in WW 1.

Frank Fry, grandfather of FBCC member Jean Douthit, was Sergeant in the 2nd NC Regiment during the Spanish-American War. He was also Captain of the 62nd Company of the NC Reserve Militia during WW1.





Cannie Feldon Myers (right) served in WW 1. His sons Taylor Norton Myers (center) and James Paxton Myers (left) both served in WW 2. FBCC member John Myers is grandson, son, and nephew to the Myers defenders of freedom.



James Crichlow Sneed, husband of FBCC member Jeanne Cogdill Sneed, was Marine Corps Sergeant in WW 2. Jim, Jeanne and family operated Sneed's Restaurant and Naber's Drive-in for decades.



Harry Ditmore grew up in Bryson City and served in WW 2 as a physician. Injured during the war, he operated a private practice in Marshall both before and after the war. This marker is a cenotaph in the family plot alongside his parents and siblings; he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Ralph Williams came to WNC as a young lad when his father took a job as lumber yard supervisor with Norwood Lumber on Forney Creek. A Sergeant in the U.S. Army in WW 2, he later became an attorney. The flags behind his mark the graves of Harry Seay (WW 2) and Harry's father Noah (Spanish-American). Those flags are also seen in the background of the Frank Fry grave marker. They are the uncle and grandfather of FBCC member John Seay, himself a veteran.





Tony Monnat, a Director of FBCC and USAF Major, Ret., annually coordinates, with the support of the VFW, placement of flags at the Bryson City, Lauada and Swain Memorial Cemeteries. Tony's family – wife Lisa and children Andrew, Lauren and Madeleine, with an assist from Alicia Kirkland, placed flags at Swain Memorial. FBCC members Susan Casada and Beth Wadlington, pictured above, attended to the graves of veterans at Lauada just before the welcome rains arrived last Friday.