Jesse W. Hyder
Co. "B"
Johnsville, Md.

In the end, good detective work always pays off. For author Don Wiles, it meant finding the gravesite of his Great, Great, Grandfather.

Jesse W. Hyder, a painter and carpenter by trade, was born December 19, 1839 in small town of Johnsville, in Frederick County, Md. Rising to the call to defend the Union, 22-year-old Jesse enlisted at Baltimore in the 7th Maryland, Company B, along with his two brothers James, 21, and Daniel Hyder, 30, on August 16, 1862.

The men had not been issued tents, and conditions were harsh during the campaign. In July of 1863, Jesse suffered deafness when he contracted a fever due to exposure while along the Rappahannock river.
In October of that same year, while at Haymarket, Virginia, Jesse suffered a gunshot to the left arm, above the elbow, the bullet exiting at the shoulder. He was sent to Lincoln General Hospital in Washington, DC, to recover. Jesse and younger brother James were severely wounded during the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-8th, 1864.

James was shot in the left foot, losing a middle toe, with two others being split. He also sustained a concussion from an artillery shell in which he, too, lost his hearing. Knocked unconscious by a falling tree, he was left for dead overnight on the battlefield. Like his brother, Jesse suffered a gunshot to the left foot also resulting in the loss of a middle toe. Both brothers were sent to Emory US Hospital to recover from their wounds.
James Hyder returned to his regiment in August 1864, but he was captured on August 31st, while on picket duty, due to the loss of his hearing. He was initially confined to Libby Prison, was transferred to Bell Island, Va., then to Salisbury Prison, in North Carolina. James was paroled on March 10, 1865.

Jesse was wounded yet again, on March 31, 1865 at Hatcher's Run, Virginia. He was sent to DeCamp General Hospital, then discharged on May 31, 1865.

Don Wiles discovered that Jesse had been married four times, losing his first wife in 1889, and marrying three more times before his death at the age of 74.

Jesse died February 25, 1914, at 322 Corbett St. in Hagerstown, from pneumonia and cardiac failure. He was buried in Lot 23, Section, 15, Range D of Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown. Through the years, the stone marker may have been moved, or may have never been placed. Due to the efforts of Mr. Wiles, Jesse Hyder will finally get his recognition. Mr. Wiles tracked down the correct plot number of the burial site with the help of old cemetery records, and in doing so, found that the cemetery still had an outstanding debt for Jesse's interment.

The 7th Maryland Regiment was honored to participate in the replacement and unveiling ceremonies on Sunday, June 13th, 2004 for Jesse Hyder's headstone. The company placed a wreath and fired a salute to honor the long-lost veteran of the original 7th Maryland.