



Pvt. Theodore Hyder, Co. "F"

After spending the winter of 1863-1864 camped outside Culpeper the 7th Maryland prepared for the spring campaign. When Lieutenant General Grant took command as General-in-Chief in March 1864 the Army of the Potomac was reorganized, and the 7th Maryland became part of the Second Division of the Fifth Army Corps. Crossing the Rapidan River on May 4, 1864, the 7th Maryland entered the Wilderness at the start of the Overland Campaign. Over the next month the 7th Maryland was in almost constant combat as the Army of

the Potomac grappled with the Army of Northern Virginia in the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and the approaches to Petersburg. From June 15 to June 18 the Army of the Potomac assaulted Confederate defensive works surrounding Petersburg. The 7th Maryland and the Fifth Corps attacked on June 18 but were repulsed with heavy casualties. Major Edward Mobley of the 7th Maryland was in a hospital suffering from fever when the attack occurred but recorded in his diary, "Our loss heavy and the wounds horrible as they mostly came from shells."

One of those casualties on June 18 was Private Theodore Hyder of Company F. Theodore was born on March 24, 1842, in Frederick County, Maryland, to farmer Jacob Hyder and Sarah Lightner, one of 11 children. On August 18, 1862, Theodore and his older brother Amos enlisted in Company F in Westminster, Maryland. Both served faithfully, Amos being promoted to Sergeant in July 1863. Wounded on his left side by a gunshot on June 18, Theodore was first treated at City Point. As his condition worsened, he was transported to Alexandria and admitted to Slough General Hospital on July 4. Slough had originally been built as a barracks for garrison troops before being converted to a hospital in 1864. Theodore, suffering from his gunshot wound and typhoid fever, died on July 9 and was buried at Alexandria National Cemetery. Buried nearby are several other members of the 7th Maryland, including Sergeant Joshua Lightner and Corporal Benjamin Lightner (both of Company E). Joshua and Benjamin are likely cousins of Theodore on his mother's side.

Despite several bouts of illness, Amos survived the Civil War and mustered out with the 7th Maryland in May 1865. He moved to Missouri in 1866 and married Mary Repp in December 1867. The couple had eight children. Amos, who worked as a carpenter, passed away on April 20, 1916, and is buried in Centerview Cemetery in Johnson County, Missouri. Mary died in 1920 and now rests with Amos."