

## Confederate's grave found – a first for city cemetery



**DELAWARE  
BACKSTORY**  
ROBIN BROWN

**V**olunteers in a nonprofit group maintaining Wilmington's historic Riverview Cemetery knew hundreds of veterans were buried there.

The earliest fought in the Civil War, but the volunteers had seen grave markers only of Union soldiers. Until last week.

A new marker was installed for Pvt. Madison McDaniel, the site's only known Confederate veteran.

"We don't know when he came to Delaware, but he had family here," said Tedd Cocker of Glasgow, an Army retiree who has become the group's veterans specialist.

There had been no markers on McDaniel's or his relatives' graves. Their stones were gone, as was pipe fencing around them, leaving just a worn stone of the family name.

Last year, Cocker said, Betty Manchester, of

the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Delaware, notified the Friends of his grave.

Her research found McDaniel enlisted with Company B, 56th North Carolina Infantry Regiment on May 5, 1862, and mustered into service at Camp Mangum, N.C., on July 2, 1862. He was listed as a 23-year-old farmer.

Twice, he was a prisoner of war.

He was captured May 22, 1863, at Gum Swamp, N.C., held prisoner at New Bern, N.C., and sent to Fortress Monroe in Virginia for release or exchange and later paroled.

Union Army records showed he was caught again Oct. 13, 1864. Two days later, at Union Point, Va., he signed an Oath of Amnesty and was released.

"His whereabouts after this point and how he ended up in Delaware are unknown," Cocker said. "His

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A newly found grave in Riverview Cemetery is of a Confederate soldier – the cemetery's first. THE NEWS JOURNAL/ROBIN BROWN

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granddaughter's still alive, but she's 90 and just moved to a nursing home." McDaniel's son and his family are said to be buried there, too, but have not been located.

Cocker applied to get McDaniel a new stone in a federal program that replaced 11 Union soldiers' markers last year. The new, granite marker and those of two more Union soldiers were in-

stalled by George Pauley of John W. Pauley Cemetery Memorials, and fellow veteran John Toomey, who both volunteered their service.

A dedication will be held later at McDaniel's marker in Section 14 off East Avenue.

"Every soldier deserves to be recognized, North or South," Cocker said, "and we're happy to recognize Pvt. McDaniel."

The public is invited to visit his grave and honor

all veterans there when the Friends of Riverview Cemetery host its annual Memorial Day Service at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Guests asked to bring folding chairs.

Learn more about the cemetery at [www.riverviewcem.com](http://www.riverviewcem.com).

Do you have an idea for a Delaware Backstory column? Comments? Questions? Contact [robin.brown@delawareonline.com](mailto:robin.brown@delawareonline.com) or The News Journal, Box 15505, Wilmington, DE 19850