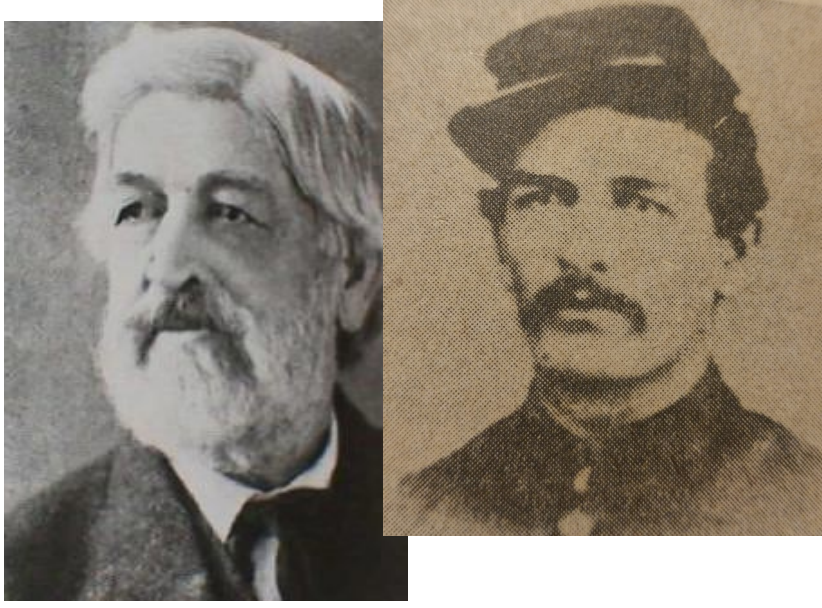


PROMINENT VETERANS

Much of Mattoon's post war path was charted in part by several Veterans who became actively engaged in Mattoon's economic and civic development. Several were Mattoon citizens before the war, and a few located in Mattoon after the war and rose to success here.

It is interesting to note that six of these men: Bridges, Dish, Eaton, McFadden, Withington and Lehman served at least one term as Mayor of Mattoon.



Joseph Withington came to Mattoon in 1865 and opened a paint, oil, and glass store. He later was in the lumber business.

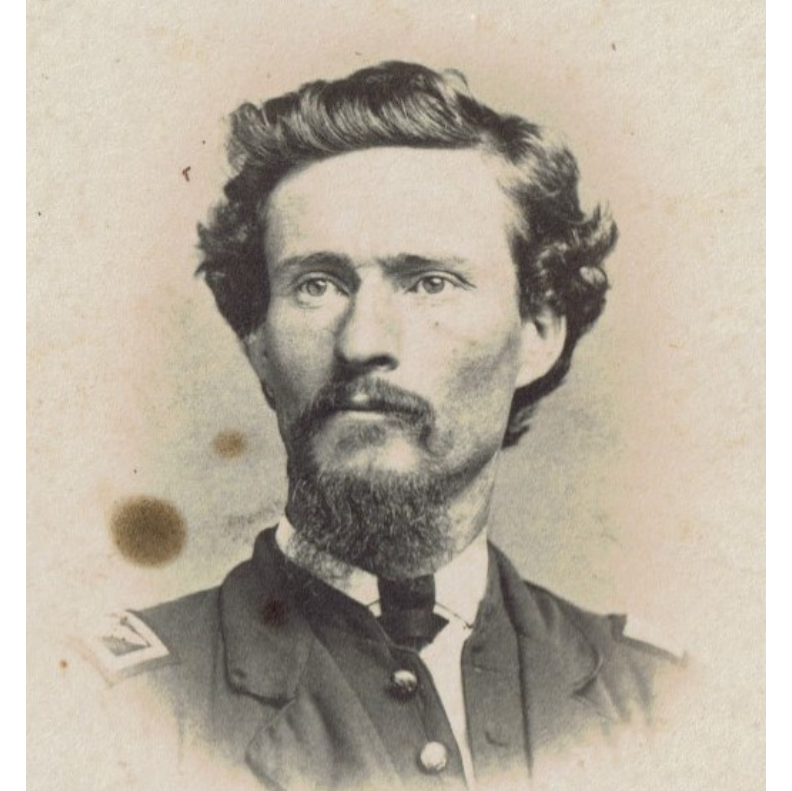
Withington enlisted in the 41st Illinois Infantry where he rose to the rank of Captain. After the war, Withington engaged in several business ventures and served as county surveyor, county supervisor, police magistrate and Mayor of Mattoon. He was a prominent citizen, known for his extensive private library of over 600 volumes. His personal, signed and dated copy of the 1869 Coles County Platt Book is on display in the History Center.

Robert H McFadden was an early pioneer of Mattoon. He built the first permanent dwelling in Mattoon at 1717 Charleston in 1855. He was Mattoon's first Justice of the Peace, a position he held until the war.

McFadden enlisted in the 41st Illinois Infantry as a 2nd Lieutenant. He rose through the ranks to Major and then transferred to the 53rd Illinois Infantry as Colonel.

After the war, McFadden was again elected Justice of the Peace, a position he was continually re-elected to, becoming the longest serving Justice in Mattoon's history.

He also served as police magistrate, city councilman, member of the school board and one term as Mayor.



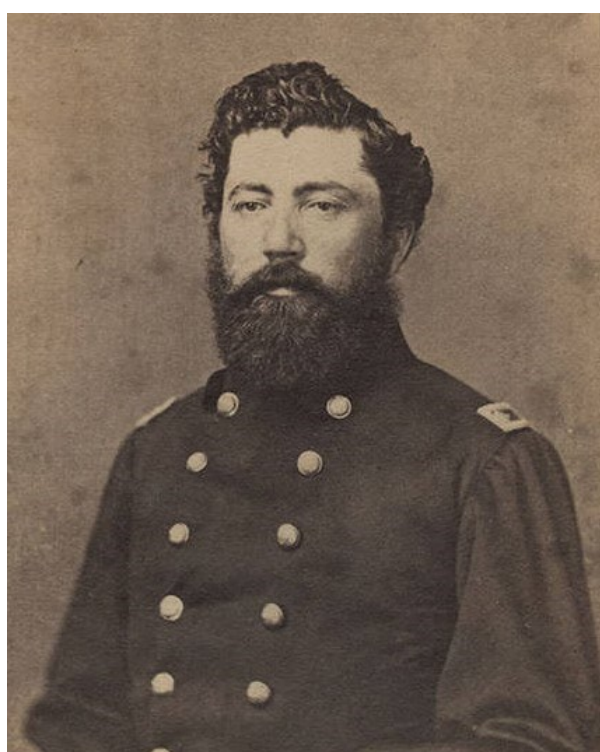
Jonathan Richmond operated Richmond & Dodds Dry Goods before the war, having moved here from Ohio. In 1861 he was appointed Colonel of the 126th Illinois Infantry. His appointment was based in part due to his service in the Mexican War as Adjutant of the 3rd Ohio Infantry.

After the war Richmond operated Drish & Richmond Hardware Store and helped to organize a gas manufacturing plant in Mattoon.

Richmond was a founding share holder of the Mattoon National Bank and served as its president for a short while.

Lapsley C Henley served as a private in Company B 7th Illinois Infantry. After the war, he was admitted to the Coles County Bar where he served as City Attorney for Mattoon and went on to serve as Judge of the City Court and County Judge.

Judge Henley also served on the Mattoon board of education for four terms and was a city councilman. Henley was a starwalt member of the G.A.R. Mattoon Post.



Vernon R. Bridges, MD came to Mattoon before the Civil War and established a medical practice. At the onset of the war, he volunteered as a physician at the Mattoon hospital and in 1863 joined the 126th Illinois Infantry as a surgeon.

He returned to Mattoon after the war, where he continued to practice medicine.

Dr. Bridges became very involved in civic affairs, serving on the city council, the school board and one term as Mayor.

James F Drish, operated a dry goods store in Carlinville and enlisted as Lt Colonel of the 122nd Illinois Infantry. Following the war he moved to Mattoon and went into the hardware business with Colonel Jonathan Richmond, as Drish & Richmond.

He continued to operate the store as J F Drish Hardware after the partnership dissolved.

J F Drish was one of the original stockholders of the Mattoon National Bank, a member of the school board, County Supervisor and Mayor of Mattoon.



Louis L. Lehman enlisted in the 86th Illinois Infantry and at the battle of Chickamauga was captured and spent 18 months at the notorious Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia.

Following the war, Lehman moved to Mattoon and became engaged in the insurance business. He moved into banking and became the president of the Mattoon National Bank for eight years. Lehman then became president of the First National Bank and in 1911 engineered the merger of the two banks, forming the National Bank of Mattoon, the predecessor to the First Mid Illinois Bank.

Lehman served as State Senator, City Alderman, Mattoon Mayor, president of the board of education and president of the Library board. As president of the Library board, Lehman was the driving force behind acquiring the Carnegie endowment and building the present Library building.

Alonzo Eaton enlisted in the 2nd Iowa Infantry and after the battle of Fort Donelson became engaged in the quartermaster corps. On the direct orders of U S Grant, whose notice he had drawn, Eaton came to Mattoon and established a Federal Corral for the purchase and rehabilitation of army mounts.

After the war, Eaton stayed in Mattoon and engaged in several business pursuits. He became one of the first directors of the First National Bank of Mattoon and served briefly as the bank's president.

Eaton also served a term as Mayor of Mattoon.

