

# THE TRUE MEN

The True family was one of the founding families of Mattoon. When the Civil War began, six men from the True family answered the call to defend the Union. All six would serve as officers before the War's end.

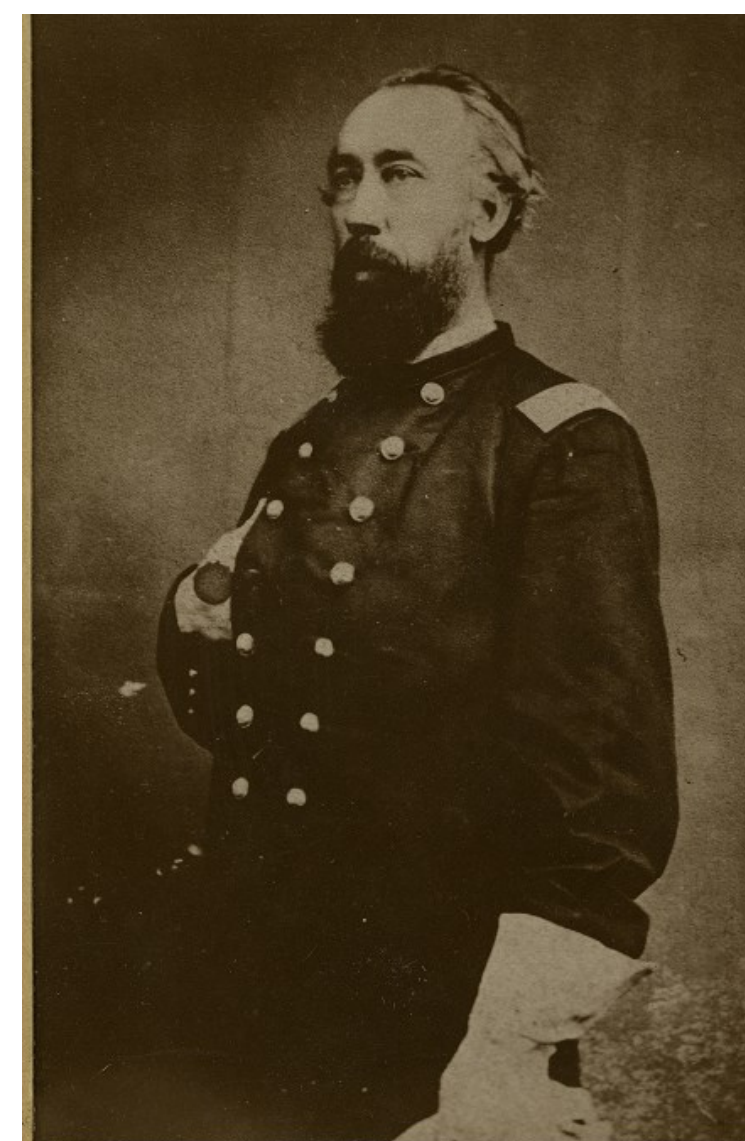
James Milton True was an early merchant in Mattoon. He operated a general store with James Taylor Cunningham in the section of the newly formed town called True Town. James M True also served as Mattoon's first Postmaster, with the Post Office located in a corner of the general store.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, James M True joined the 38<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry on 2 August 1861, as a Captain. His brother, Lewis C True, joined the unit the same day as a Sergeant.

On 10 April 1862, James M True was assigned as Colonel of the newly formed 62<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment.

Colonel James Milton True was Brevetted Brigadier General on 6 March 1865. After the war, James M True served as United States Consul in Kingston, Ontario, Canada from 1874 to 1878.

James Milton True, engaged in the mercantile business and became a minister after the war. In later years he lived in Kansas, Illinois, and died there on 28 July, 1908. His body was returned to Mattoon and interned at Dodge Grove Cemetery with full military honors.



James Milton True



Lewis Corbin True as a Lieutenant and a Lt Colonel.

Lewis Corbin True enlisted in the 38<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry as a Sergeant, 21 August 1861. On 10 April 1862, he followed his brother into the 62<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He progressed through the ranks to be commissioned a Lt Colonel on 3 February 1865. In that rank he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, VII Army Corps until the end of the war. On 11 July 1865, Lewis C True was promoted to Colonel and commanded the District of South Kansas.

After the war, Lewis C True returned to Mattoon and became a lawyer and cattle trader. In later years he lived in Kansas City and Chetopa, Kansas.

Another brother, Edmund W True, joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers on 19 April 1861, as First Lieutenant. The 7<sup>th</sup> was a 100-day regiment. Upon the expiration of that enlistment, Edmund W True joined the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry as the Captain of Company D, on 9 August 1861.

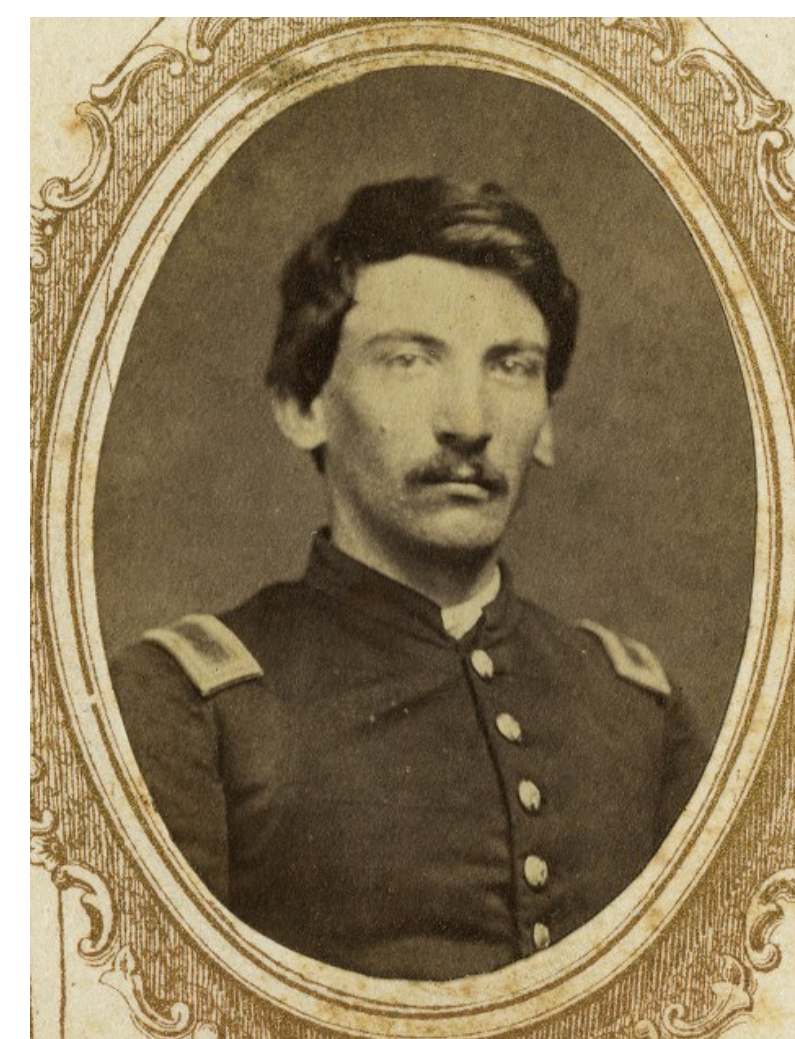
Captain Edmund W True was killed in action at Ft Donelson, Tennessee on 14 February 1862.

Theodore E True was the son of Edmund W True and joined the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry on 9 August 1861, the same day as his father. Theodore E True enlisted as a Sergeant in Company D. Within six months, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant, and subsequently First Lieutenant and attained the rank of Captain, on 28 November 1863. He would finish the war at the rank of Captain. Following the war, Theodore E True remained in the US Army, being commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army, assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

He served in Wyoming during the late 1860's as an Indian fighter and Cavalry officer.

He then served in the Quartermaster Corps, rising to the rank of Brigadier General and retired in 1904 at that rank.

Brigadier General Theodore E True is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Theodore E True

John Will True's father, Fredrick, ran a mercantile store at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. John W True operated a Hartford Fire Insurance Agency from the second story of his father's store.

John W True enlisted in the 54<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry on 10 October 1861. He served as Adjutant until 16 January 1863 when he was promoted to Major, a rank he would hold until the end of his service.

After the war True returned to Mattoon and was the Cashier at the First National Bank for many years. He retired to Eureka Springs, Arkansas where he lived into his 80's.

James F True joined the 100-day 7<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers on 19 April 1861 and upon discharge, joined the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry as a Sergeant.

On 2 November 1862, he transferred to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Infantry to accept a Second Lieutenants commission. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on 13 July 1863 and finished the war at that rank.

After the war, James F True resettled to Newman, Kansas.