

By Bill Stevens – Originally published in the December 2006 Newsletter

Did you know that a high-ranking Civil War veteran is buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery? Buried in old Section D, Division 27, Lot 3, his monument reads: R. F. PATTERSON / BRIG. GEN. U.S.V. / BORN / MAR 9TH, 1831 (note: other sources indicate 1836) / DIED / JAN'Y 9TH, 1907 / Fts: R.F.P.; M.B.P. Robert Franklin PATTERSON.

Robert was born in Belfast, Maine on March 9, 1836 to John and Mary Patterson. He received his formal education in Belfast before moving to Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa prior to the start of the Civil War. He enlisted in June 1861 and on July 15 was appointed Second Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster of the 5th Iowa Infantry and served in Company 'C'. He served in the Missouri Campaign under General Fremont. He was promoted to Adjutant on January 27, 1862. He took part in the capture of New Madrid on March 14, 1862 and then the capture of Island No. 10. He was promoted to Brevet Colonel of Volunteers on March 26, 1862. He took part in the siege and capture of Corinth, Mississippi in late May 1862. He was wounded in the right arm on September 19, 1862 in Iuka, Mississippi. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel on November 3, 1862 and joined the 29th Iowa Infantry. In the spring of 1863 he took part in the siege of Vicksburg; the battle at Helena, Arkansas on July 4, 1863; the capture of Little Rock in September 1863; the siege of Spanish Fort, Alabama in March 1865; and the capture of Mobile, Alabama on April 12, 1865. On May 22, 1865 he was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General "for gallant and meritorious service at Spanish Fort and Mobile." Patterson mustered out August 10, 1865 at New Orleans, Louisiana. After the war he settled in Memphis, Shelby

County, Tennessee and was engaged as a cotton broker. In April 1869, President Grant appointed him Collector of Internal Revenue at Memphis, a position he held for 13 years. He served as postmaster of Memphis from 1889 to 1893. He was the U.S. Consul General at Calcutta, India from May 1897 through 1906. Robert was a Republican in politics.

Robert died on January 9, 1907 at St. Catharines and is buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

He married Marion Benedict Hudson (nee Merritt), widow of Judge Hudson, on August 3, 1878. Marion was born on May 16, 1849 in Michigan and died on October 5, 1934 in Hamilton and is buried beside her husband in Victoria Lawn Cemetery. They had three daughters and a son:

- * Maud Cloudman Hudson (stepdaughter) – born in 1872 in Tennessee. She married Dr. Wm. Hamilton Merritt on October 12, 1892 in Chicago.
- * Mabel Patterson – born 1879 in Tennessee. She married Lieutenant Colonel H.F. Davies.
- * Marion Patterson
- * Robert Frank Patterson Jr. – born on April 17, 1881 and died on February 24, 1920. He is also buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery