

# The First Memorial Day

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Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, Eugene, Oregon



Civil War  
or  
War Between the States  
1861-1865

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North  
Union  
Yankee  
Blue



South  
Confederate  
Rebel  
Gray





# Cornelius Pleasant Shuck

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Union Civil War veteran and GAR member. He served in Company E, 7th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The son of John and Catherine Voris Shuck, he married Annie Bell in Indiana in 1870. They had three children. He was a member of Eugene GAR Post 7.

Shuck enlisted in the 7th Indiana on August 17, 1862 and saw action in the battles of Antietam, Frericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg where he fought on Culp's Hill under the command of Gen. Abner Doubleday.

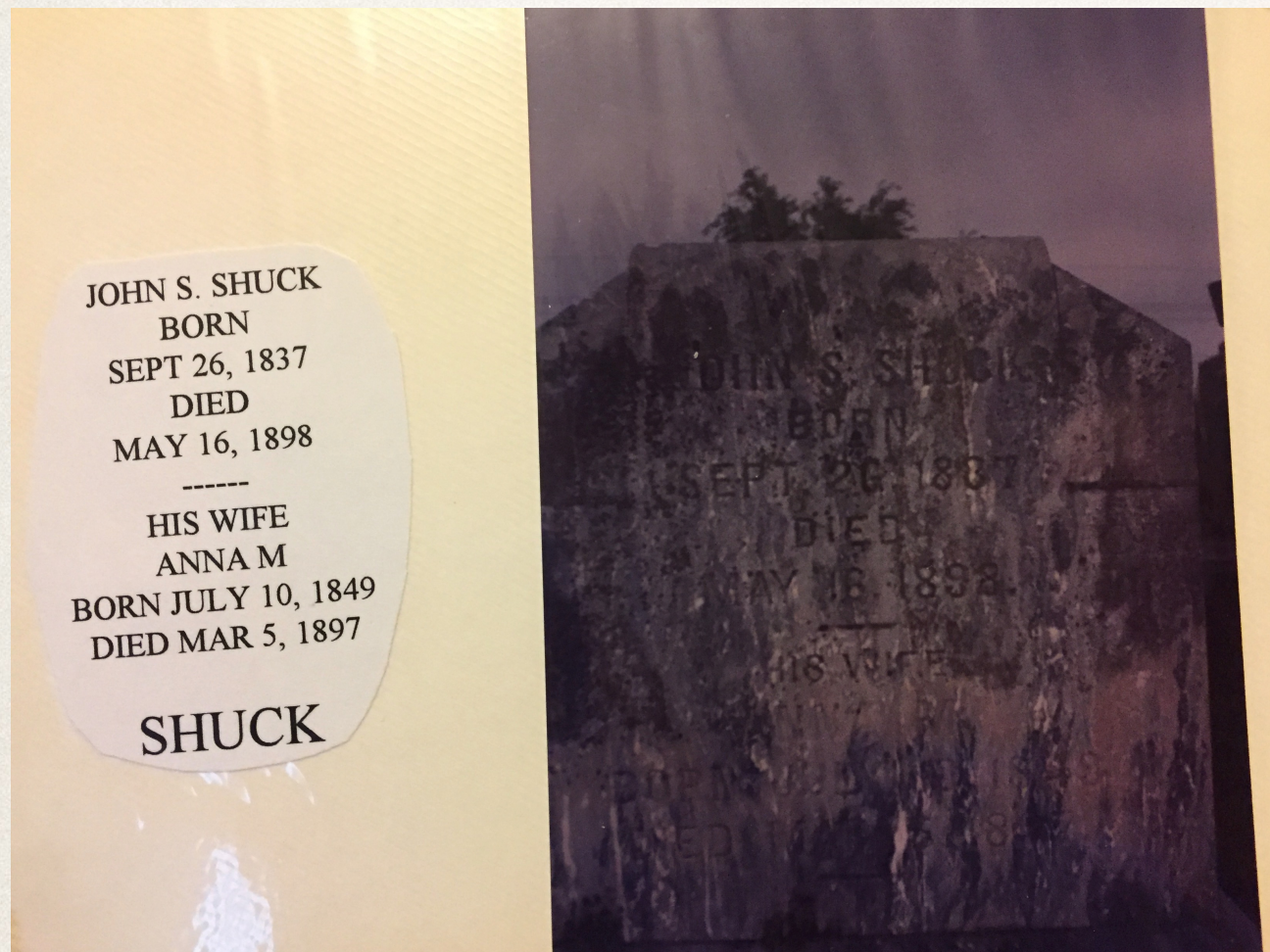
He was captured by the Confederates and spent the remainder of the war in the Confederate prison in Salisbury, North Carolina.

In 1890, Shuck was living in Cass, Missouri. He came to Oregon sometime between 1900 and 1910.





# John Samuel Shuck



John Samuel Shuck and Annie Shuck buried in  
Holton, Kansas



# Mary Ann Williams

Mary Ann Williams, the secretary of the Ladies Memorial Association founded in Columbus during the winter of 1866, wrote a letter that was published in March and April of that year in more than two dozen newspapers across the country. The letter reported on the association's resolution, one year after the end of the Civil War, to "beg the assistance of the Press and the Ladies throughout the South to aid us in our effort to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande and be handed down through time a religious custom of the country to wreath the graves of our martyred dead with flowers."







Date

First Decoration Day, Columbus, Georgia, April 26, 1866



# Flowers for All

On April 26, 1866, people across the South heeded Williams' letter and threw flowers on the graves of Civil War soldiers. Some Southern women noticed that Northern soldiers' graves interspersed with the graves of their loved ones, sat untended.

They start to see these Union graves that are just laying there, kind of barren. Their hearts are warmed. Their hearts start to feel bad for the mothers who have lost these children. So, they start to throw flowers on the Yankee graves.





**The Blue And The Gray**  
**Francis Miles Finch (1827-1907)**

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**By the flow of the inland river,  
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,  
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,  
Asleep are the ranks of the dead:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Under the one, the Blue,  
Under the other, the Gray**



**The Blue And The Gray**  
**Francis Miles Finch (1827-1907)**

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**From the silence of sorrowful hours  
The desolate mourners go,  
Lovingly laden with flowers  
Alike for the friend and the foe;  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement-day;  
Under the roses, the Blue,  
Under the lilies, the Gray.**



**The Blue And The Gray**  
**Francis Miles Finch (1827-1907)**

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**So with an equal splendor,  
The morning sun-rays fall,  
With a touch impartially tender,  
On the blossoms blooming for all:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day;  
Broidered with gold, the Blue,  
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.**





**The Blue And The Gray**  
**Francis Miles Finch (1827-1907)**

**No more shall the war cry sever,  
Or the winding rivers be red;  
They banish our anger forever  
When they laurel the graves of our  
dead!**

**Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment-day,  
Love and tears for the Blue,  
Tears and love for the Gray.**

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