

The Griffin logo is positioned in the top left corner. It features the word "Griffin" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. A small yellow circle is placed above the letter 'i'.The background of the cover is a photograph of a cemetery. The central focus is a large, weathered stone sculpture of a man's head and shoulders, shown in profile facing left. The man has a full beard and curly hair. He is wearing a draped garment, possibly a shroud or a robe, with deep folds. To the right, the top of another stone monument is visible. The background shows a clear blue sky and the green leaves of a tree in the upper right corner.

*Historic Cemeteries*  
an Illustrated  
History and Guide

# Griffin History

## Spalding County

The land which is now Spalding County was claimed in the 1540's by Spaniards as part of Florida. Then, in 1629, England declared the land part of South Carolina. Not until 1764 was this area an official part of the colony called Georgia. Led by Chief McIntosh, the Creek Indians ceded all land between the Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers and north to the Chattahoochee River on January 8, 1821, in the First Treaty of Indian Springs.

## A new treaty

Two years later, the treaty was declared invalid because of rumors of bribery and coercion. Chief McIntosh signed another treaty with the white man and was subsequently executed by a faction of the tribe opposed to giving away lands. Although no Creek settlements existed in Spalding, the familiar McIntosh Road was an important trail leading to Indian Springs, a meeting place for Indians. The Springs' highly sulfured waters were thought to have healing powers.

## More counties were created

After the treaty, five counties were created by the Georgia General Assembly: Monroe, Henry, Fayette, Houston and Dooly. The next year, Pike County was carved from Monroe and Henry. Not until December 20, 1851, was Spalding County founded. It was created from parts of Pike, Henry, and Fayette counties.

## Griffin

Early leaders were desperate to settle the newly acquired land, so it was given away in a lottery system. Winners almost always used their 202.5 acre lots for farming, especially cotton. The only way to transport goods to Macon, the nearest market, was by wagon. Better transportation was a

necessity. The solution to the problem was tracks, rails and locomotion.

## The Monroe Railroad

The Railroad, owned by General Lewis Lawrence Griffin, received authority to build a line from Macon to Forsyth in 1833. More charters were granted to other companies. Tracks were planned to connect Macon to Savannah, Augusta to Madison and Chattanooga to a tiny town called Terminus.

## A New Vision

General Griffin envisioned a town that would prosper at the crossings of a North-South line and a tract running East-West. After determining where these railroads would meet, he bought 800 acres in Pike County from Bartholomew Still. Griffin made a plan for the new town which included wide roadways, plots for six churches, two schools, parade grounds, and a cemetery. William Leak bought the first acre on June 8, 1840 for the tremendous sum of \$1000.00. In 1842, the first steam engine came through town.

## Official Incorporation

The railroad attracted cotton growers who supported merchants in town. Soon, professional people were settling in a place which was wilderness only a few years before. Griffin was officially incorporated on December 28, 1843. That same year, Marthasville (once Terminus) was incorporated, and in two years would be renamed Atlanta.

## Tough Times & Expansion

The Depression of 1843 halted the Monroe Railroad's construction. Plans of an East-West line to connect in Griffin were forgotten.

After the Monroe Railroad was sold under court order, the Georgia Railroad's line was extended to Atlanta, not Griffin, as the General had hoped. In 1855, a fire destroyed an entire block on the east side of Hill Street. But also in that year, the town emerged from the depression, cotton flourished once again, and business and population boomed.

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# Oak Hill Cemetery

Griffin is a planned city. Founder General Lewis Lawrence Griffin designed the town in 1840 and set aside parcels for a courthouse, churches, a male and female academy, two parks, and the location for a community cemetery.



Oak Hill Cemetery is the largest cemetery in Spalding County. The cemetery is divided into two sections; Old Oak Hill and New Oak Hill. Many citizens, who were well known for their part in establishing Griffin and Spalding County, are interred here. As one strolls through the cemetery they can read the names and inscriptions from the tombstones and this gives historical insight of Griffin. Nestled against gentle slopes and hills, it is visually appealing with its various levels, retaining walls, oaks, magnolias and cedar trees. Elegant mausoleums add interest, as do a number of impressive tombstones. Perhaps for the real history enthusiast, the most fascinating graves are the older ones marked only by headstones with inscriptions nearly blotted out by time.



*Lot 117 - Block 4 - Old Oak Hill*

John David Stewart was a United States Representative from Georgia born near Fayetteville, Georgia on August 2, 1833.

Stewart attended The Marshall College in Griffin where he studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1856 and began his practice in Griffin. From 1858-1860 he served as probate judge of Spalding County.

During the Civil War, Stewart served as a Captain in the 13th Georgia Regiment.

After the Civil War, he was an elected member of the State House of Representatives from 1865-1867.

Stewart was ordained as a minister of the Baptist Church in 1871. He later served as mayor of Griffin in 1875 and 1876.

He was judge of the Superior Court of Spalding County from November 7, 1879 through January 1, 1886, from which he resigned and became a candidate for Congress. Stewart was elected as a Democrat to the 50th and 51st Georgia State Congress, serving March 4, 1887 through March 3, 1891.

After being unsuccessful for re-election in 1890, Stewart returned to his law practice in Griffin.

John D. Stewart died on January 28, 1894.



## *Lot 97 - Block 6 - Old Oak Hill*

Jack Reid was born near Griffin in 1839 to John and Sarah Reid of Pike County, Georgia.

As a young man, he inherited a large fortune which he quickly spent. A marriage that was not accepted by his family; alcohol, bad decisions and a passion to keep up with the fashion of the times drove him from associations and stripped him of family prestige.

Around 1873, he left Griffin and spent time in South America and Mexico only later to be reported as dying in a Texas jail. This was not the case as Jack returned to Griffin some 30 years later in 1903.

He walked into the bar of Reid & Gordon and called for the owner Mr. Jim Reid. When Jim first saw Jack he said, "I don't know who you are, but I'm talking to a Reid." "You are," was the reply, "and I am Jack Reid."

Jim summoned several older inhabitants of Griffin to verify the identity of this man. Mostly without exception, he proved himself to be Jack Reid. Furthermore, his identity was also confirmed by Henry Reid, a Blacksmith at the time and former slave of the Reid Family.

Jack explained that his cell mate in Texas had died and he had allowed him to be buried in his place at Old Oak Hill Cemetery as Jack Reid. No record is given as to where the "real" Jack Reid may be buried. However, in the family plot a few unmarked graves remain alongside his parents, giving possibility to his final resting place.



*Lot 82 - Block 6 - Old Oak Hill*

According to local history, the Jonathan P. Milner lot in Old Oak Hill holds the remains of Mr. Milner, his children and his five wives. Each wife and infant died during childbirth and all are laid to rest side by side.



*Lot 165 - Block 2 - Old Oak Hill*

There is a bit of Tennessee in Old Oak Hill. This is known as "The Bank of Tennessee" lot, owned by the State of Tennessee. As the War Between the States moved south into Georgia and Alabama the medical personnel moved with the troops setting up field hospitals for the wounded. With the exception of one woman that was buried in 1870, you will find Confederate casualties, including 18 doctors and nurses, all from Tennessee, that were buried between 1861 and 1865. Very little is known about these individuals other than their names and the years they were buried.



## *Lot 136 - Block 10 - Old Oak Hill*

Nicholas B. Drewry, M.D. was born on December 15, 1834 in a part of Pike County, Georgia that later became what is now Spalding County.

In October 1854, he attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pa. and later attended Atlanta Medical College, graduating in 1855.

Dr. Drewry practiced his profession until 1860 in Fayette County, Ga. and Jonesboro, Ga. In 1861, while working at Charity Hospital he started post-graduate work at the New Orleans Medical College.

In September of 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company E, 13th Georgia Volunteer Infantry and was soon after appointed surgeon. From 1863 through 1865, he was assigned duty at the Medical College Hospital in Atlanta and the Hospital of Columbus, Mississippi.



In 1865, after the Civil War, Dr. Drewry opened a drug store in Griffin which he operated until 1899. After leaving the store he returned to private practice as a physician and surgeon.

Dr. Drewry was a member of the city council from 1869-1870 and again in 1875 when he served as mayor pro tem. He was elected to represent Spalding County in the Georgia State Legislature from 1882-1883.

Dr. Drewry returned to Griffin and served as president of the board of education. In 1902, he was appointed a member of the board of directors of the Georgia Experiment Station by Governor Allen D. Candler. On December 6, 1904 he was appointed Mayor of Griffin. During his life, Dr. Drewry was a member of the Spalding County Medical Association, the Georgia Medical Association and the United Confederate Veterans. He achieved the honor of worshipful master, the highest rank possible, at the Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26 in Griffin, Georgia.

Dr. Nicholas B. Drewry died on June 30, 1920.





*Lot 133 - Block 8 - Old Oak Hill*

David Jackson Bailey was born in Lexington, Ga. on March 11, 1812. He moved to Jackson, Ga. in 1829 to study law, was admitted to the bar in 1831 and became a practicing attorney.

Bailey was elected to the Georgia General Assembly before the age of 21, but was not permitted to serve because of his age. In 1835 and 1847, he served in the Georgia House of Representatives. He was a member of the Georgia Senate in 1838, 1849 and 1850 serving as secretary from 1839-1841 and the President of the Georgia Senate in 1855 and 1856. Bailey was elected to represent Georgia's 3rd congressional district in 1850 and served in the 32nd and 33rd United States Congress.

After his service in government, he returned to practice law in Jackson, Ga. He was a member of the Georgia Secession Convention in 1861 that passed the Ordinance of Secession that led to the American Civil War. In that same year Bailey and his family moved to Griffin and started construction on their family home on Meriwether Street.

When the Civil War began, he established Camp Bailey near Fairburn, Ga. as a confederate training camp, where he organized the 30th Georgia regiment and was appointed the rank of Colonel. Bailey's military service ended due to ill health in 1863.

He returned to Griffin to his family home, which at the time was used as a confederate hospital for the remainder of the Civil War. After the war, the house was renovated due to the alterations needed to serve as a hospital. The completed Bailey house still stands the same today and is home to the Griffin-Spalding Historical Society.

David J. Bailey died in Griffin on June 14, 1897.

Samuel W. Bailey died on July 15, 1879 and is buried with his wife in an underground crypt.

## *Lot 203 - Block 10 - Old Oak Hill*

Samuel Wesley Bailey came to Griffin from Athens, Ga. in 1867. He was a banker and land owner of a large amount of property located around the 1100 block of East College Street. He married the wealthy widow Blackmon from Flat Shoals and they bought the old Cloe Collier / Lewis Home on Meriwether Street.

Shortly after Bailey arrived in Griffin, a committee of men gathered to make plans for the construction of a "Griffin Male Institute". The plan was to build a two-story brick building which would be paid for through donations. The City of Griffin donated \$7,500.00. The Bailey's contributed generously. Bailey, being the largest single contributor had the honor of having the building named for him. The



building can still be found at 234 East Taylor Street.

Bailey partnered with Gilman Drake in 1873 and founded the City National Bank on the west side of South Hill Street. That same building would later become Morrow & Powell Clothing Company.



## *Lot 73 - Block 8 - Old Oak Hill*

*M* Major William Marland was born in Andover, Maryland on March 11, 1839.

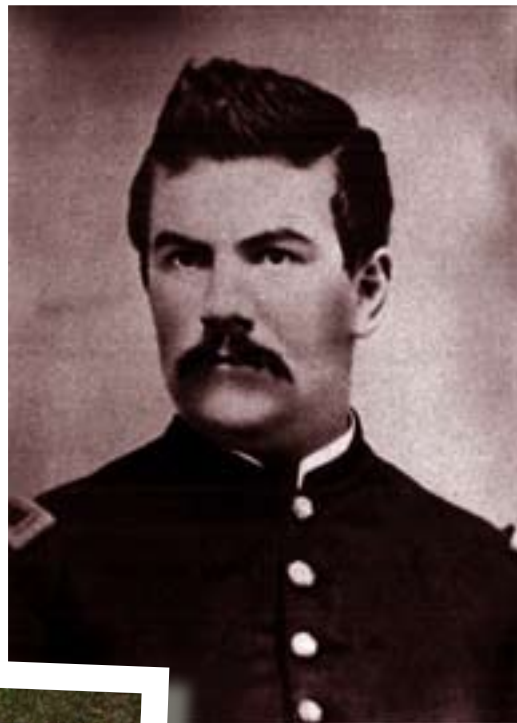
On April 15, 1861, he enlisted in Company F of the "Old Sixth" and was promoted to Sergeant within three months.

In December of 1861, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant 2nd Battery, Light Artillery, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, where he remained until August 11, 1865. During his service, he was promoted to First Lieutenant, Captain and was later made Brevet-Major.

He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor as a First Lieutenant in the 2nd Independent Battery, Massachusetts Light Artillery for action on November 3, 1863 at Grand Coteau, Louisiana.

His citation reads "After having been surrounded by the enemy's cavalry, his support having surrendered, he ordered a charge and saved the section of the battery that was under his command."

Major William Marland later moved to Griffin with his family in 1902, where he lived until his death on April 17, 1905.



abandoning the city of Richmond.

After the end of the Civil War, he returned to Georgia and became a farmer. In later years, he served as Adjutant General of Georgia.

Captain John M. Kell died at his home in Sunnyside, Ga. on October 7, 1900. His body was brought to Griffin on a special train with a full military escort.

## *Lot 190 - Block 9 - Old Oak Hill*

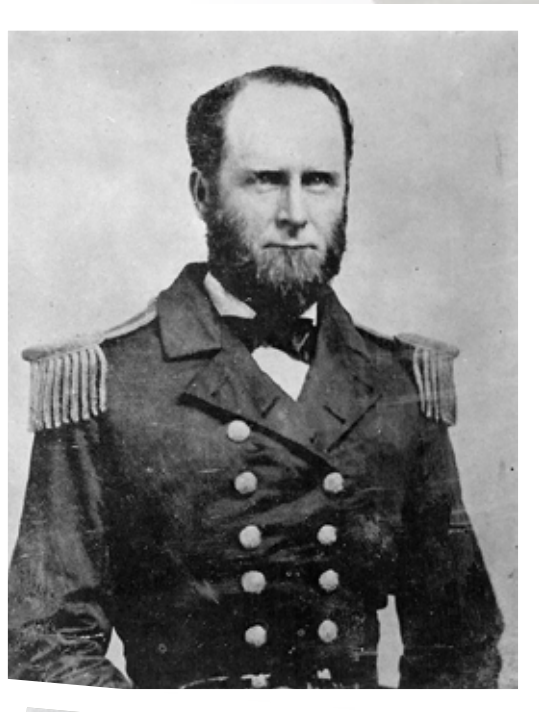
Captain John McIntosh Kell was born in McIntosh County, Ga. in 1823.

As a young man, he entered the U.S. Navy as a Midshipman in 1841. Over the next two decades, he was active during the Mexican-American war and later accompanied Commodore Matthew C. Perry on his expedition to Japan in 1853.

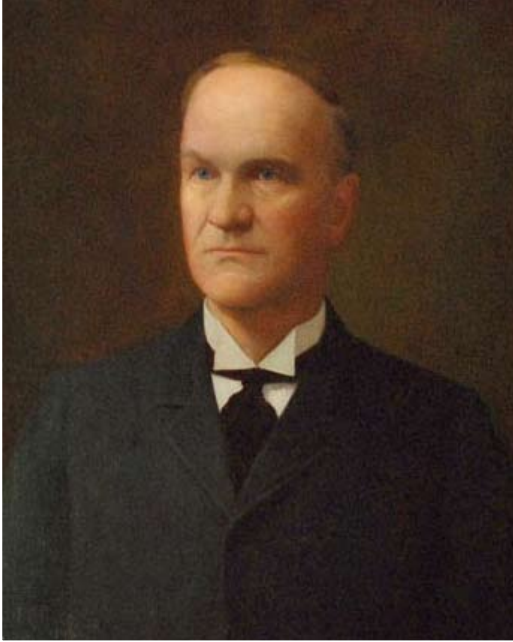
When Georgia seceded from the Union in early 1861, he resigned from the United States Navy and became the first former US Naval officer to offer his service to the South.

His first commission as a Confederate Naval Officer was commanding the Georgia state gunboat, CSS Savannah in 1861. He was then assigned as Executive Officer of the Confederate cruisers CSS Alabama and CSS Sumter from 1861-1864.

Promoted to the rank of Commander in 1865, he commanded the first in a class of six iron-clad ships, the CSS Richmond in the James River Squadron. It was deliberately destroyed by fire as the Confederate Government was



*Lot 250 - Block 2 - Old Oak Hill*



Governor James Stoddard Boynton was born in Henry County, Ga. on May 7, 1833. Many titles were conferred upon him during his lifetime. Among those are Attorney, Colonel, Mayor, Judge, Senator, President of the State Senate and Governor of Georgia.

He was admitted to the bar in 1852 and practiced law in Monticello and Jackson, Ga. During the Civil War, he served in the 30th Georgia infantry and was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 1864, just seven days before being wounded in Atlanta.

After his service in the Civil War, he moved to Griffin and resumed his law practice. In 1866, he became the Judge of Spalding County Court. He was elected mayor of Griffin serving from 1869-1872 and while in office he dedicated the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery.

In 1880, he was elected State Senator from the Griffin District and served as President of the Georgia Senate in 1880 and 1882. Due to holding the office of President of the State Senate, he became the new Governor upon the death of Governor Alexander Stephens in 1883.

Later in Griffin, he was elected Judge of the Flint Circuit Superior Court of Georgia in 1886 and 1890.

Governor James S. Boynton died in Griffin on December 22, 1902.



*Lot 396 - Section B - Block 2*  
*New Oak Hill*

John James (Jack) Flynt, Jr. was born in Griffin on November 8, 1914.

Flynt attended the Georgia Military Academy (now Woodward Academy) and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1936.

Upon graduation he served in the United States Army from 1936-1937 and again from 1941-1945 and was a member of the United States Army Reserve. During his service in World War II, he served as a Colonel and was the aide-de-camp to Brigadier-General Robert W. Grow. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 1944, for action in France.

In the midst of his two terms of military service he attended Emory University School of Law from 1937-1938. He later graduated from George Washington University Law School in 1940 and began his private law practice. Flynt served as the Assistant United States Attorney for Northern District of Georgia from 1939-1941 and again from 1945-1946. He served as Solicitor General for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Court from 1949-1954 and was president of the Georgia Bar Association from 1952-1954.

Flynt was a delegate to the Georgia State Democratic Conventions in 1946, 1950, 1954, 1958, 1962, and 1966. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1960 and 1968. Flynt was an elected member of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1947-1948. He was elected as a Democrat to the 83rd Congress in 1954 by special election to fill the vacancy caused by the



death of Representative A. Sidney Camp. Re-elected for the next 11 terms and served as chair of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during the 94th and 95th Congress. After leaving Congress, Flynt returned to Griffin and resumed his law practice and other ventures that included farming, banking and real estate.

Jack Flynt lived in Griffin until his death on June 24, 2007.









## *Block 1 - Old Rest Haven*

John G. Hill also known as “Black Jack Hill” was born in Jones County, Georgia in 1811.

Hill was one of the first settlers in town for whom the main street through Griffin is named. He owned a considerable amount of property and his residence was the third house built in Griffin. His two-story house was built on the corner of East Chappell Street and North Hill Street.

By occupation, he was a life-long merchant selling plantation supplies, which included one of the largest inventories in town. Hill was a Mason of high rank and one of the leading men of Georgia. He was a trustee of the Griffin Collegiate Seminary for Young Ladies.

Hill was associated with General Griffin in the Monroe Railroad & Banking Company. He served on the board of directors and became the President of the Southern Mutual Insurance Company located on New Orleans Street.

John G. Hill died beloved and honored in his native State in 1852. The inscription upon his tombstone expresses the whole story, “A good man”.



## *Block 2 - Old Rest Haven*

*M*artha Eleanor Holliday was born in Griffin in December of 1849.

She was the first child of Alice Jane and Henry B. Holliday. Martha is known as the sister of the infamous John Henry "Doc" Holliday. It is alleged that Doc Holliday himself may be buried in an unmarked grave elsewhere in the cemetery.

Martha E. Holliday died at her home at the age of 6 months and 9 days on June 12, 1850.



## *Block 3 - Old Rest Haven*

*R*aymond Head, Jr. was born in Griffin on February 23, 1921.

He attended Tuskegee Institute High School and later went to The Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University. In 1943, he graduated with a B.S. degree in Commercial Industry, majoring in tailoring. He played varsity football and ran on the track team earning the nickname "Race Horse". Voted "Most Ideal Boy" of his senior class, he served as class treasurer each of his four college years. He was a member of the T Club, R.O.T.C. and Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. During his college years he never missed a single church service or program held in Tuskegee's Chapel. In later years he was inducted into the Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame.

After leaving Tuskegee, Mr. Head moved back to Griffin where he was an active member of his church and community. He and his two brothers were owners of the first African-American dry cleaning business in Griffin.



Mr. Head was the first African-American elected to the Griffin Board of City Commissioners in 1971 and represented the citizens of District 2 for 27 years. During his tenure as a city commissioner he served as mayor in 1976, 1985 and 1995.

The Georgia Municipal Association elected Mr. Head to the Commissioners Hall of Fame in 1999 for his many social, business, and civic contributions to his community. The City of Griffin honored him with the naming of a pocket park in 1999. Raymond Head, Jr. Park is located on the corner of Anne Street and Beck Street.

Raymond Head, Jr. died on October 7, 2010.



## *Block 4 - Old Rest Haven*

*A*.M. Wilkins, M.D. was born in Griffin in 1871.

Dr. Wilkins was the first African-American dentist in Griffin and maintained a successful practice for 35 years. He was a prominent member of the community and a civic leader who participated in many charities and activities including the Red Cross.

His accomplishments include serving as President of Citizens Trust Company of Atlanta, Trustee of Clark College in Atlanta for 10 years, Steward of Heck Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church for 35 years and Treasurer for the Rural Society of Griffin District, Atlanta Conference.

Dr. Wilkins was the Chairman of "Black and Tan," a black political faction within the Republican Party. He was a District Chairman, a member of the executive committee and a delegate to the National Conventions of the Republican Party.

Dr. A.M. Wilkins died in 1932.





# Stonewall Confederate Cemetery

Stonewall Confederate is a section of the cemetery which was originally donated to the City of Griffin by its founder, General Lewis Griffin in 1840. Stonewall was originally surrounded with a barbed wire fence, but was later replaced by an ornate wooden gate and the wooden tombstones were painted white. A white wooden picket fence would replace the barbed wire only to be replaced again a short time later by an iron fence. In 1873, the wooden tombstones were replaced by marble markers.

Inside the gate is a granite marker indicating that General Joseph Wheeler's headquarters was located in Griffin. During the Civil War, Wheeler had sixteen horses shot from beneath him. He fought at Horseshoe Bend and later with Teddy Roosevelt in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba.

The Georgia Historical Commission erected a marker outside of Stonewall Cemetery. It reads: "Several hundred Confederate and one Union Soldier, casualties of the Battles of Atlanta and Jonesboro, from the hospital at the old Synodical College and the Battlefields are buried here."

Georgia held the first Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony in Griffin at the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery on October 26, 1866.

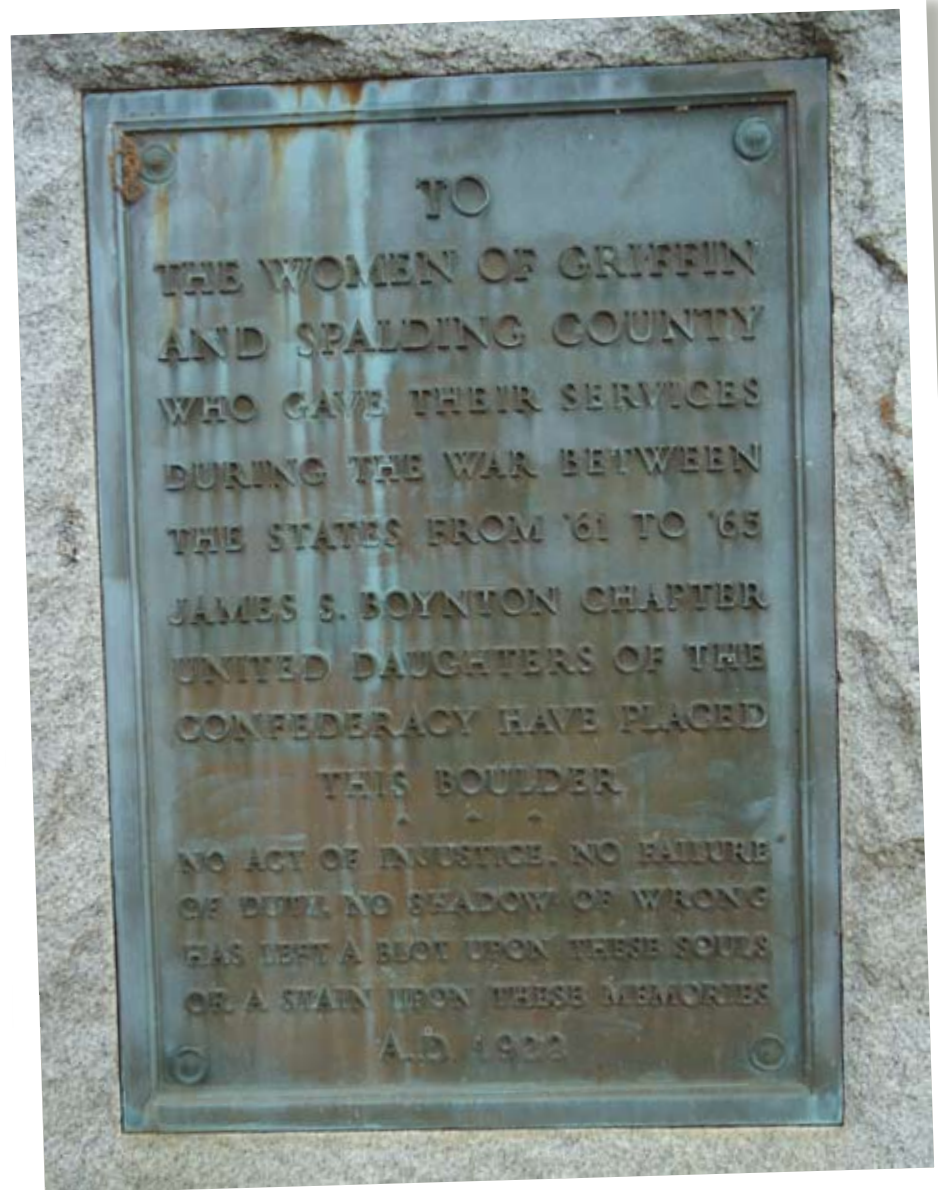
There are over 500 Confederate graves; 47 of these are still unknown.

- Among those buried in this cemetery are:
- Confederate Medal of Honor recipient, Pvt. William A Hughes, Company H, 1st TN. Infantry
  - A free man of color Confederate soldier, Wiley A. Stewart, Company H, 4th TN. Cavalry
  - A Union soldier, Cpl. Nathan Kellogg, Company F, 85th ILL. Infantry
  - The wife of Confederate soldier, William Riley Fortner, Company A, 46th GA. received permission to be buried beside her husband
  - A Spanish American War soldier, Pvt. George A Conkey, 20th KS. Infantry
  - An Unknown World War I soldier



# *Monument of the United Daughters of the Confederacy*

This monument was donated in 1922 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy honoring the services of women during the Civil War. It was originally erected at the intersection of Solomon Street and 8th Street. It was later moved to the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery and is located just inside the main entrance gate.





## Angel Statue

Centered in Stonewall Confederate Cemetery is an Italian marble monument topped with an angel. A family from Columbus, Georgia ordered the statue, to be designed and carved abroad. The statue was being shipped to Columbus, but the onset of the Civil War stopped the shipment and it was stored in Griffin.

After the Civil War, with the purchase not completed by the original family, the Ladies Memorial Association bought the angel, added a granite base that was quarried in Griffin and dedicated it on August 27, 1869.

Included on the monument are four canons that read:

“In Memorium Our Confederate Dead”

“Erected by the Ladies Memorial Association of Griffin, Georgia, 1869”

“Rest! Soldier! Rest!”

“How sleep the brave, who sink to rest  
By all their country’s wishes bless’d!  
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,  
Returns to deck their hallow’d mould,  
She there shall dress a sweeter sod  
Than Fancy’s feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knell is rung;  
By forms unseen their dirge is sung;  
There Honour comes, a pilgrim gray,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay;  
And Freedom shall a while repair,  
To dwell a weeping hermit there.”

The poem included on the statue was written by English poet William Collins in 1746. It was used by both the Confederate and United States Armies to honor their dead.





# Veterans Memorial Cemetery

One hundred and ninety-two spaces were added for Spalding County Veterans and were dedicated on May 26, 1997. Standing vigil over the graves of our fallen soldiers is a retired 155 Howitzer donated by the 48th Infantry Brigade of the National Guard. The 155 Howitzer was in combat in France during World War I and in Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Ardennes-Alsace during World War II. A marble plaque placed in front of the artillery piece reads "Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Honor of Our Veterans".

Five flags honoring the armed services and a POW flag adorn the center with the 155 Howitzer. The American flag and the Georgia flag are present as you enter the north gate. Each gate opens onto brick-lined walks that come together at the site of the Howitzer. Veterans names, from as far back as the Revolutionary War through present day conflicts are engraved on the bricks as a legacy to the men and women who sacrificed for our freedom. One walkway contains bricks with the names of friends and families of veterans to

honor their service to our country. The bricks are dedicated twice each year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day and installed the week following the ceremonies.

Just to mention a few of those who were instrumental in bringing this cemetery to fruition were Jack Sutton, former Mayor of Griffin; Public Works Director Brant Keller, PhD.; Past Post Commander Bill Shivers and retired Colonel Allan Imes. Griffin takes pride in paying tribute to those veterans who have made such great sacrifices in service to their country.





# Veterans Memorial Plaza

Monuments in this Park honor the dead of the Revolutionary War, World Wars I and II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Conflict.



## *Daughters of the American Revolution Monument*

This monument was placed by the Pulaski Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in 1976.

The Revolutionary War was fought between the Kingdom of Great Britain and the new American Colonies between 1775 and 1783, but gradually expanded to a global war with Britain against the American Colonies, France, Spain and the Dutch Republic.

The American Colonies had formed a unifying Continental Congress and created a shadow government in each colony, at first remaining loyal to the king. Great Britain imposed the Stamp Act of 1765, which taxed the colonies without giving them equal representation with the British Parliament. The American Colonies revolted against this tax, which led to the Boston Tea Party in 1773, when shiploads of tea were destroyed. Britain responded by ending self-government among the colonies and by declaring the members of the American Continental Congress as traitors. The American Colonies responded in turn by declaring their independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.

With the support of France, Spain and the Dutch Republic all secretly providing supplies, ammunition and weapons to the revolutionists, the 13 colonies eventually gained their independence. In 1783, the Treaty of Paris ended the war and recognized the sovereignty of the United States.

The names on the sides of this monument are a few of the soldiers who served under Colonel Elijah Clark's Georgia Regiment. In 1782, Colonel Clark gave his surviving men deeds of acreage in this area for their service.



## *The Confederate Monument*

This Confederate monument was originally erected by the James S. Boynton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in November 1909 at a cost of \$3,000.00. The monument was first located in the median of the intersection of Hill and Solomon Streets.

As a part of Griffin's Centennial Celebration, it was decided to bury a crypt at the base of the monument. The crypt contains mementos from the year 1940, placed in a copper box with all the seams and lid welded shut. This crypt is marked by a bronze plate at the base of the monument which states, "Not to be opened until 2040", which will be Griffin's 200th birthday.

Inside the box:

- A letter signed by the City Manager Dick Drake and City Commissioners, W. B. Harris, John Stephens Manley and Davis Williams
- A letter from Spalding County Commissioners, W.A. Bill Jester, O.M. Snider, Sr., and W. J. Carrecker
- A letter from Bob Burns, the Centennial pageant director
- A letter from President F. D. Roosevelt
- A letter from the Civic Clubs
- A letter from the Chamber of Commerce
- A Centennial issue of the Griffin Daily News

Due to heavy traffic in downtown Griffin, after the Centennial in 1940, the monument was relocated to its current location in Memorial Park. The monument is inscribed: "Their mausoleum is our heart, their fame hath deathless bloom; Time is their watchful sentinel, and Glory guards their tomb."

The Confederate soldier at the top of this monument faces north. Hundreds of other confederate monuments throughout the south all face north following the long-standing tradition of placing a statue to face his enemy.



## *World War 1 - The Spirit of the American Doughboy Monument*

The American Legion acquired "The Doughboy Monument" and unveiled it on May 30, 1928. The monument was first located at the intersection of Hill and Taylor Streets and was later relocated to the Griffin Memorial Plaza in 1957.

Created by American sculptor Ernest Viquesney, the Spirit of the American Doughboy statue is one of only 153 on record at the Smithsonian. The Doughboy statues are the second most admired outdoor sculptures in America, second only to the Statue of Liberty. The name "Doughboy" was used in reference to the American soldiers who were members of the American Expeditionary Force (the AEF) to Europe, primarily to England and France, during the Great War – now known as World War I.

World War I was a major war centered in Europe that involved all the world's great powers between 1914 and 1918.

History credits the start of the war to when Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a Yugoslav nationalist. Austria-Hungary invaded and received support of the German and Ottoman Empires. On the other side were the main Allied powers of the Russian and British Empires, the French Republic and Italy.

The United States had remained neutral throughout the war until 1917. We joined the fight with the Allies on the Western Front in France after Germany refused to change their tactics of sinking British supply ships that often carried American citizens.

The war ended in victory for the Allies with a cease-fire on November 11, 1918, which was later known as Armistice Day.





## *World War II Monument*

The Pulaski Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated the World War II monument in December of 1947. The monument was first located in downtown Griffin and later relocated to the Griffin Memorial Plaza in 1957.

Only 21 years after World War I, another world conflict began in Europe and the Pacific, which lasted from 1939 until 1945.

The Germans set out to establish a large empire and invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. The invasion caused Britain and France to declare war against Germany. France was quickly overrun by the Germans and the British forces were pushed back.

Germany joined forces with other Axis powers, Italy and Japan and conquered much of continental Europe, Northern Africa and the Pacific. In June 1941, the Germans invaded the Soviet Union and Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th in that same year. The United States immediately declared war and were joined with other major Allied powers of Britain, the Soviet Union and China.

In 1943, the Soviet Union ended the German advancement on the eastern front and the other Allied powers achieved major victories in Africa and in Italy. The Allied powers later invaded Normandy on June 6, 1944, now known as D-Day. In December 1944, the Allied forces were able to hold off the advancement on the western front by German forces at the Battle of the Bulge. The Allied armies forced a German retreat and eventually the Germans surrendered in May of 1945. The battle in the Pacific came to an end on August 14, 1945 after atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This monument lists one hundred names of the brave Spalding County citizens that made the supreme sacrifice for their country during World War II.



## The Korean War Monument

The Korean War monument is to honor the citizens of Spalding County who gave their lives for this country. The monument, erected in 1969, was a joint effort between the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5448 and the citizens of Griffin/Spalding County.

A war or conflict, primarily between United Nations forces, mainly comprised of United States and South Korea on one side, and the forces of North Korea with support from Communist China and Russia on the other.

The Korean peninsula was ruled by Japan from 1910 until the end of World War II. Following the surrender of Japan in 1945, American administrators divided the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel. The North established a communist government, while the South established a capitalist government. The 38th parallel increasingly became a political border between the two Korean states. Although reunification negotiations continued in the months preceding the war, tension intensified. The failure to hold free elections throughout the Korean Peninsula in 1948 deepened the division between the two sides. Cross-border skirmishes and raids at the 38th Parallel persisted. The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950.

United Nation forces, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, were sent into South Korea and quickly destroyed the North Korean army in the south, retook Seoul, then soon advanced into North Korea. The United Nation's troops were eventually forced back to the 38th Parallel when North Korea received support from China and the Soviet Union.

The conflict ended on July 27, 1953 when an armistice agreement was signed. The agreement restored the border between the Koreas near the 38th Parallel and created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5 mile wide buffer zone. Minor outbreaks of fighting still occur to this day.



# The Vietnam War Monument

In honor of the men and women of Spalding County who served their country so faithfully and to the loved ones who suffered loneliness and loss, this monument was erected in grateful tribute by the citizens of Spalding County in 1984.

The Vietnam War was a Cold War-era military conflict that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from November 1, 1955 to the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

This war was fought between North Vietnam, supported by its communist allies against the government of South Vietnam, supported by the United States and other anti-communist countries. The U.S. government viewed involvement in the war as a way to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam while the North Vietnamese government viewed the conflict as a colonial war.

Increasing numbers of U.S. Combat troops arrived in Vietnam in 1965, which grew to a total of nearly a half million by 1968. The mounting toll of casualties caused worldwide opposition to the war, as well as anti-war demonstrations in the United States. With the total withdrawal of U.S. troops, the South was overrun and the war effectively ended with the fall of Saigon in April of 1975.



## *The Temperance Monument*

The Temperance Monument was presented to the City of Griffin by the Women's Christian Temperance Union on September, 28, 1916. The inscription on the monument reads "For God and Home and Native Land".

The monument was equipped with four water fountains, one on each corner of the monument. The temperance movement was based on the idea of education regarding the moderation of alcohol consumption.

Its first location was at the intersection of Solomon and Hill Streets. It was placed there in hopes of enticing people from the saloons for a cool drink of water. The monument was later moved just outside of the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery. It remained there for many years until it was moved again to its current place in Griffin Memorial Plaza. Mr. Joe Harrell of the Oak Hill Cemetery Preservers was instrumental in the move and the restoration of getting one of the fountains working again.



## *The Griffin Eternal Flame*

In the center of the Memorial Plaza, you will find the City of Griffin's Eternal Flame. It honors the memory of those represented by the surrounding war monuments in the Memorial Plaza.

The flame was installed by the City of Griffin and the American Legion in 1969.





**Legend**

- 1 - Cemetery Office
- 2 - Columbarium
- 3 - Maintenance
- 4 - Mausoleum
- 5 - Library
- 6 - Stewart
- 7 - Reid
- 8 - Milner
- 9 - Bank of TN
- 10 - Drewry
- 11 - Bailey, D
- 12 - Bailey, S
- 13 - Marland
- 14 - Kell
- 15 - Boynton
- 16 - Flynt
- 17 - Hill
- 18 - Holliday
- 19 - Head
- 20 - Wilkins
- 21 - Hughes
- 22 - Stewart
- 23 - Kellogg
- 24 - Fortner
- 25 - Conkey
- 26 - Unknown WW I
- 27 - UDOC Monument
- 28 - Angel Statue
- 29 - Veterans Memorial
- 30 - Revolutionary War Monument
- 31 - Confederate Monument
- 32 - World War I Monument
- 33 - World War II Monument
- 34 - Korean & Vietnam Monument
- 35 - Vietnam Monument
- 36 - Temperance Monument
- 37 - Eternal Flame
- New Oak Hill Cemetery
- Old Oak Hill Cemetery
- New Rest Haven Cemetery
- Old Rest Haven Cemetery
- Pauper Cemetery
- Stonewall Confederate Cemetery
- Veterans Park









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