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## Union Civil War Soldier to Be Reburied in West Virginia

**Private Roland Gillispie Will Receive a Full Civil War-Era Re-Enacted Funeral**



By [rosemeadow](#), published May 08, 2007

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WINFIELD, WV -- There are always those mysterious ancestors that perplex genealogists. Who were their parents? Why did they die? Where are they buried? Luckily for Joyce Saunders of South Point, Ohio, one of these questions has now been answered about her great-grandfather, Private Roland Gillispie.

Last summer, while surveyors were busy working on the [new](#) U.S. Route 35 in Putnam County, WV, they discovered an old, overgrown cemetery. Buried within this cemetery were the remains of 42 individuals, one of which was the Union Civil War soldier, Private Roland Gillispie. The cemetery, known as the Gillispie-Roach or Gillispie View Cemetery, was going to have to be dealt with before the road could be built.

West [Virginia](#) State officials began searching for descendants of the Civil War soldier and others in the mostly unmarked graves. Eventually they located Joyce Saunders, who just happened to be a genealogy buff. She then contacted nine other descendants and made a trip to the old cemetery to [clean](#) off Gillispie's grave and place some [flowers](#) and an [American](#) flag in his honor. "I can tell you, I cried," she said. "These people become real to you."

While the other individuals' remains have been relocated to alternate cemeteries, Private Gillispie will receive a full military-honors reburial recreated in Civil War-era detail on May 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Huntington, West Virginia. The public is invited to witness this rare event that will begin at Ferrell-Chambers Funeral Home on 924 20th Street. Private Gillispie's [body](#) will be transported to Spring Hill Cemetery in a horse-drawn hearse from the early 20th century provided by Schneider-Griffin Funeral Home of Chesapeake, OH pulled by twin Golden Percheron horses. The Sons of Union Veterans, Cadot-Blessing Camp 126 of Gallipolis, [Ohio](#) will be in charge of the ceremony and re-enactment of historical significance. James Oiler, of Camp 126 said that Civil War burials are not very common. However, when they do occur, the 1890 Ritual & Ceremonies Manual of the Sons of Union Veterans is strictly followed.

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After being deceased nearly a century, Pvt. Roland Gillispie will be laid to rest appropriately.

Credit: Lawrence Pierce  
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**Takeaways**

The old Gillispie-Roach Cemetery was discovered while surveyors were working on a [new](#) road.

All 42 individuals' remains had to be exhumed and relocated for the road to be built.

Pvt. Roland Gillispie's great-granddaughter was located by state officials.

**Resources**

[www.armytimes.com/news/2007/05/ap\\_civilwarsol](http://www.armytimes.com/news/2007/05/ap_civilwarsol)

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**Donna Schoenrock**

I really enjoy reading anything related to the civil war - fascinating era.

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