

Hammil Cato Timmons

A profile of Hammil Timmons written by his father William Timmons for the appendix to William Timmons' "Life Book," the full text of which is available at http://www.steen-frost.org/Pub/Docs/Timmons_files/1873_Life_Book.pdf.

Hammil Cato Timmons ... was born January 18th half past 8 o'clock 1843 in Coweta County. He was a stout healthy boy; he weighed 8 ½ lbs. As soon as the Lady done her duty whose name was Sally Mize. She did not charge anything for her services. We lived at several [places] as were on rent. When he was about a year and a half old—a lady died of dropsy. In the midst of her disease she gave birth to an infant daughter, [but] was unconscious of it. Two weeks afterwards some person told her of it. She was surprised to find it to be a fact. At 3½ days I carried [the baby] to my house to save its life—but to save it we had to wean Hammil. All worked off finely. He would wait and even quit nursing to let this little babe have its supply whether he had enough or not.

He seemed to possess a very social temperament and inclined to be obedient and some industrious. He with the one previous [ought] to have went to school but an older brother died and he had to help make a crop & this debared him from school.

That year 1856 I was so embarrassed with debts hanging over me that I was compelled to sell my land to get out of debt—and I then bought another piece or full lot of land (202 acres) and called for all the help I could raise for we went to the woods—he was stout and by this time could do mans work. He was quite a hand to drive oxen, was very strong to his size, and when necessary would put forth his strength equal to a man when but 15 years old. His moral habits was as good as any of his brothers. I must leave his religious status to my review of his character at the close.

The war came up and put us in an unpleasant situation. He had become inclined to war and without any respect to me or my advice he volunteered for Capt. Bass' company to go to Savannah. I fixed him up for the expedition as well as I could and carried him over to [Newnan].

The army went on to Savannah, remained six months and done no good. He become cold, backslidden & finally wicked. He returned home, volunteered under Capt. Grice and joined the Tennessee Army, and at Missionary Ridge was wounded in the head—ball entering just below the right eye, tearing up the cheek bone and passing through that side of his head, tearing his ear badly, missing the brain about ¼ of an inch so reported the home surgeon. I heard of him and met him in Atlanta, brought him home, and after having his wound dressed he became deranged from Saturday morning till late the following Wednesday when his mind seemed to be restored.

He began to mend very soon and in a month was called to Newnan [hospital], then to Dalton and then it was fight! fight!! to Atlanta & lastly to Jonesboro. At the time of that Miserable Massacre he was called out to help the surgeon in treating the wounded. Then they were called on to go to Franklin, Tennessee and he was in the last battle. Captured him & his young brother Benson Ellison and carried to Camp Chase—Dec. 16 to June 15 he was in prison. The [Colonel] found

him to be a Royal Arch Mason—got him in to be a nurse for his own boys in the hospital till the surrender. He came home with his brother just mentioned, arrived home about the 20th June.

After resting awhile he commenced business in a Blacksmiths shop with a man by the name of Reuben Rochester. After working a few months he became dissatisfied and went to work for a man that was a carpenter—to clear land for him. He become acquainted with a young lady by the name of Tyson [a fine scholar] & soon was married—she had but little physical ability—him and his wife lived with me that year. We had protracted meeting at our church called Campground—he was miserably fallen, was reclaimed—his wife was a Baptist without Religion; she was converted & joined our church the Southern Methodist.

The next year he made his arrangements to live with Col. Pitts. Commenced work. The Legislator of Georgia made arrangements to send all the young men to school 2 or 3 years—so this one went to school 2 years. Towards the last of that year he commenced the study of Medicine of nights under the direction of Drs. Fattz-Juhan & Reese & worked one year in the field and found he could [not] endure the hot sunshine. So he went into a carriage shop to work. He remained there for 2 years & 3 months—and read medicine of nights.

Got a showing from his Drs. to Atlanta Medical College at which [he] stayed a few months & got some showing from the college. Went to Edwardsville & practiced medicine from that place for two years. None but Northern Methodist there. They would not countenance him but little. His practice was mostly in the neighborhood of Howels Chapel, 15 miles from Edwardsville. So last year (1875) he removed to that place and has done well. He is very popular & of course very successful. His wife has had four children—three sons & one daughter. Willie E., Thomas Y., John E.—he is dead—& Susan B. He is trying to be useful in a Religious point of view. His boys are quite smart and it is to be hoped they will make useful men.”