

Mulkey family cemetery has a famous namesake

Just off Simpson Chapel Road in Washington Township is a 20-grave cemetery named for the Mulkey family. Its most prominent member, James B. Mulkey, is not buried among his relatives.

His father, who was born in Tennessee, bought land on Section 29 in the township in 1831. James was to play a major role in the county's history in the Civil War years.

IN FEBRUARY OF 1860 the courthouse was the scene of emotional meetings during which Monroe Countians debated the merits of a compromise with the Southern states in order to avert war. James Mulkey was elected co-secretary at one of those meetings.

According to "Pop" Hall in his *Historic Treasures*, Mulkey, as a leader of the meeting, was in distinguished company. Others who expressed their feelings about the possibility of war were former governor, Paris Dunning, Judge G.A. Buskirk, Morton C. Hunter (who later recruited a whole company of Monroe County troops), Hugh Marlin and Dr.

Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

J.G. McPheeters, one of the four graduates of Indiana University's class of 1834.

MULKEY'S SECRETARIAL service at the dramatic meeting in the courthouse was the least of his contributions to the Union cause. After the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, he was commissioned as an infantry captain.

The editor of a Bloomington newspaper enthusiastically reported: "Another company of volunteers for the United States service left here on Tuesday last for Madison, where the regiment is to be formed . . . The volunteers were escorted to the train by Captain Mulkey's company of infantry, and took their departure amid

a deafening salute of musketry."

LATER MULKEY WAS promoted to the rank of major with recruiting duties. The success of his work was recognized by his superiors when he was named provost marshal for the district.

Perhaps he had an inkling about the future deterioration of the family cemetery on the homestead in Washington Township. Upon his death in 1903 at the age of 77, he was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.

The little Mulkey family burial place is only one of many on the "endangered" list in the township. Some of them are named for less prominent families, but ones that nevertheless made their contributions to the life of the township and the county.

FORTUNATELY THE Denney family plot containing some 30 graves is cared for by the present owner of the property. Capt. Samuel Denney did yeoman's service raising funds for the relief of Monroe County soldiers in military hospitals.

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