



The German Reform Church still stands at 46 West Main Street in Sharpsburg, Maryland,

James W. Brooks' Headstone



James W. Brooks
Stafford
6-1-2
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6-1-2

James W. Brooks - Co. I, 16th Ct. Stafford

Wounded in the battle of the Antietam 17th Sept
Admitted to this hospital Oct 5th 1862
Present Condition (Oct 7th) He has six wounds -
There is a fine incision in the upper third of the left
arm and some four inches in length of the tracheum
has been removed by an operation. Consequent upon a
musket fracture in that locality - No attempt at union
was taken place. & one can look into the cut & see
the neck of the bone at one extremity & the opposite
sawed end at the other extremity. Between the anus
and the right tuberosity of the ischium is a wound
when a ball entered and came out of the
body at the right of the spine in the lumbar
region - A ball passed through the left leg between
the tibia & fibula six inches above the ankle joint
which apparently did no injury to bone or vessel - Another
ball passing antero-posteriorly grazed the right
leg the same distance above the ankle, and on the
outer side - this wound is not serious - Another ball
struck the antero-external aspect of the thigh three inches
above the knee and passing just beneath the skin
came out at the middle of the thigh on
the outer side - of all the wounds that of the
arm & femur are the most serious - The boy is
conscious but has an appetite & there is hope
(Oct 7th evening) Doing pretty well. Considering
the multiplicity of his wounds -
(Oct 9th morn) Holding his own remarkably
(Oct 10th morn) Doing well - but the most tedious
case to dress and keep clean that I ever knew
Oct 11th Failing rapidly & must die soon
Oct 11th 3 P.M. Just died

Surgeon's Notes of
Wounds Received at
Antietam by James W.
Brooks, Co. I, 16th
Connecticut Infantry

James W. Brooks—Co. I, 16th Ct., Stafford [Ct.]—wounded in the battle of Antietam
17 Sept.

Admitted to this hospital Oct. 5th 1862. Present condition (Oct. 7th). He has six wounds. There is a free incision in the upper third of the left arm and some four inches in length of the brachium has been removed by an operation consequent upon a musket fracture in that locality. No attempt at union has taken place & one can look into the cut & see the neck of the bone at one extremity and the opposite sawed end at the other extremity. Between the anus and the right tuberosity of the ischium is a wound where a ball entered and came out of the body at the right of the spine in the lumber region. A ball passed through the left leg between the tibia & fibula six inches above the ankle joint which apparently did no injury to the bone or vessel.

Another ball passing anteroposteriorly grazed the right leg—the same disturbed also the ankle and on the outer side—the wound is not serious. Another all struck the antero-exterior aspect of the thigh three inches above the knee at the middle of the thigh on the outer side. Of all the wounds, that of the arm & perineum are the more serious. The boy is emaciated but has an appetite & there is hope (October 7th evening) doing pretty well considering the multiplicity of his wounds.

October 9th noon. Holding his own remarkably.

October 10th, noon. Doing well but the most tedious case to dress and keep clean that I ever knew.

October 11th. Failing rapidly and must die soon.

October 11th 3 P. M. inst., Died.

“Two weeks later, he was given a military funeral in a cemetery in Willington, Conn. I visited Brooks’ final resting place early this afternoon, navigating the back-country roads until I ended up at the interestingly named Moose Meadow Cemetery. Tilted slightly to the right, Brooks’ 5-foot, gray marker may be found near the back of the cemetery, near an old stone wall. The tombstone says he died of “six heavy wounds.”

Bio of Surgeon Edward McDonnell

the German Reform Church on Main Street in Sharpsburg became a makeshift hospital for the Federal IX Corps, including many soldiers from the 16th Connecticut—a rookie regiment that suffered significant losses in the 40-Acre Cornfield. Irish-born surgeon Edward McDonnell kept a casebook in which he detailed the treatment of some of the wounded in the small brick building.

Surgeon Edward McDonnell's casebook is housed in the National Archives at Washington D. C.

Bio of James Willard Brooks

Born 1843 he was the son of James Fisk Brooks (1812-1891) and Sarah Davis (1809-1901) of Stafford, Tolland county, Connecticut. “James lay on the field for at least 40 hours before burial crews found him after the Battle of Antietam. An 18-year-old private in the 16th Connecticut, Brooks suffered from six wounds, including severe wounds to his left arm and both legs during the fight in John Otto’s cornfield. By early October 1862, James had been moved to the German Reform Church, where a makeshift field hospital had been set up in the small brick building on Sharpsburg’s main street. Initially, the surgeon who treated Brooks was optimistic.