David M. Dotson, 4th Sergeant, Co. K, 37 TN Infantry, C.S.

1840  November 18: Dotson was born to parents William and Matilda Watson in Tennessee.

1850  October 22: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grainger County, TN showed 9 year old David, living with his parents William and Matilda and many siblings. His father William was a farmer.

1860  August 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grainger County, TN showed 19 year old David living with his widowed mother, Matilda, and family.

1861  September 6: Enlisted in the C.S. Army in Grainger County, TN.

November & December: Company Muster Roll. Present.


July to December: Company Muster Rolls. Present.

1863  January to December: Company Muster Rolls. Present.

1864  January to October: Company Muster Rolls. Present.

November 30: Wounded at the Battle of Franklin.

December 5: Dotson’s foot was amputated.


December 25: David, age 24, is at No. 1 U.S.A. General Hospital, Nashville, TN. Injury: “Ball entered immediately over the inner side of right foot near the articulation of the middle tarsus with metatarsal bone and passed directly through the foot. Operation “Amputation right foot by Choparts method.”

1865  May 6: Forwarded from Nashville, TN to Louisville, KY.

June 16: Released from Military Prison, Louisville, KY after taking the oath of allegiance. His Oath of Allegiance lists David M. Dotson’s personal description. Place of Residence: Rutledge, TN, Complexion: Dark, Hair: Dark, Eyes: Dark, Height: 5ft 9 1/2 in.

1867  January 26: Married Louisa Elizabeth McAnally in Grainger County, TN.
August 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grainger County, TN showed David, a farmer, and Eliza (Louisa) living with their 2 year old daughter Sarah Matilda. Also living in the same household was David’s mother Matilda, 65 yrs old, and perhaps her mother in law Sarah Dotson, 82 yrs old.

June 8: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grainger County, TN showed David, a farmer, and Louisa living with their children: Sarah M., age 13, Harriet, 10, William, 8, Louverna, 5 and Cora Lee, 2.

June 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grainger County, TN showed David, a farmer, and Louisa living with their Daughters, Harriet Nancy, age 27, Luvernia, 22, Mary, 18 and Loria, 13.

January 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Grainger County, TN showed David, a farmer, living with his two adult daughters Harriet and Loria.

July 4: David Dotson died of pneumonia. ***death certificate and headstone give different dates, the death certificate date was used.***