Dr. Deering John Roberts, Surgeon, 20 TN Infantry, CS

1840  May 20: Roberts was born to John and Eliza Roberts in Nashville, TN. John and Eliza were both immigrants from England. John was a very successful printer and owner of the Republican Banner.

1850  October 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Davidson County, TN showed 10-year-old Deering living with his parents and siblings.

1859-1860 Listed as a student at the University of Nashville.

1860  October 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Calhoun County, MS showed Deering, a physician, living with the Kennedy family. John H. Kennedy was the local hotel keeper.

1861  May 25: Enlisted in the CS Army and mustered in as a private, Co. C, 1 TN Infantry.

    September & October: Company Muster Roll. Present.


    May to August: Field and Staff Muster Roll (20 TN). Present. Listed as Assistant Surgeon.

    November & December: Company Muster Roll (1 TN). Remarks “Promoted to Asst Surgeon 20 Tenn. Regt May 12, 1862.”

1863  July to December: Field and Staff Muster Roll. Present.

1864  January 28: Field and Staff Muster Roll taken in Dalton, GA. Remarks “Appointed Asst Surg May 13, 1862 Promoted to Surg May 6, 1863 Now on duty”

    January to October: Field and Staff Muster Roll. Present.

    November 30: Tended to the wounded at the Battle of Franklin. One of those soldiers was Tod Carter. Dr. Roberts later gave a speech reminiscing about his experience in Franklin.

    “It is unnecessary for me to mention, surely in this historic locality, the brilliant action that here occurred on the last day of November, 1864. The very walls of the houses of your beautiful little town know that part of history only too well. Was the Twentieth here? The soil of these grand old hills can explain with one accord: ‘We were moistened with some of its best blood!’ The gallant ‘Todd Carter,’ my old mess-mate, whose spicy communications in the Southern press, under the nom de plume of Mint Julip was rapidly making fame in the field of literature, here breathed his last in his father’s house, under his own roof tree that he had so successfully assisted to wrest from the occupancy of the enemy. Fit companion for the heroic souls of Cleburne, Strahl and others of that stamp,
he accompanied them on their last journey to receive the reward meted out to them from the hand of their Creator.\textsuperscript{1}

December 17: Captured on the Confederate retreat in Franklin. Dr. Roberts had established a hospital in Franklin and was tending the wounded.

1879

1880 June 1: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed D.J., a physician, living with his wife and children.

1900 June: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed Deering J., a physician, and his wife living with their children and multiple boarders.

1910 April 30: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed Deering J., a physician, and his wife living with their children.

October 12-13: Confederate Army Reunion held in Franklin, TN.

“At 10:30 o’clock a.m. the soldiers will form in line and parade through the streets of Franklin, whence they will go to McGavock’s grove, the scene of the immortal battle. The parade will be headed by the band of Tennessee Industrial School, and immediately following will be four uniformed companies already mentioned.

At noon, or soon after, the soldiers will be given a barbecue at McGavock’s grove. Following the barbecue there will be a general reception and

\textsuperscript{1} The Daily American, Nashville, TN, Friday, 19 Oct 1877, pg. 4
\textsuperscript{2} The Daily American, Nashville, TN, Saturday, 15 Nov 1879, pg. 2
\textsuperscript{3} The Daily American, Nashville, TN, Tuesday, 4 Nov 1879, pg. 4
real old-fashioned reunion of the soldiers. This will end the official program and on Thursday night most of the soldiers will leave Franklin for their homes.”

And about the ladies of town who helped care for the wounded soldiers.

“And, now, to these ladies here, permit me to assure you from my inmost heart that the debt of gratitude incurred whilst I had the honor to be with you in those sad closing days of ’64, can never be repaid. Day after day I witnessed the fair daughters of Williamson bending o’er the rude couches extemporized for our wounded, and whether the sufferer was from the far away everglades of the land of flowers, or the pine ridge or sandy savannahs of Georgia, those fair hands ministered as tenderly, lovingly and impartially as to the wounded scion that sprang from these historic blue-grass hills and dales. They treated them all as brothers, as brothers who had fallen in their defense.⁴

January 14: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed a widowed Deering J., a doctor, living with his son and daughter-in-law.

March 29: Roberts died in Nashville, TN. He was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

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7 Tennessee Virtual Archives, No copyright. Gordon’s staff parading through Franklin on the way to McGavock’s grove.