Samuel George Dyer was born in Georgia about 1833. He was married to Elizabeth Pentecost on January 27, 1857 in Dadeville, Tallapoosa County, Alabama. When the 1860 census was taken, they were living with Elizabeth’s widowed mother in Tallapoosa County. He was working as a house carpenter at the time. Samuel’s marriage record and military records show his name as “Samuel G.,” while the 1860 census records him as “George.”

Dyer served as a private in Co. A, 1st Alabama Infantry, the “Tallapoosa Rifles,” having enlisted on February 10, 1862 at Barrancas, Alabama for a term of three years. On April 8, 1862, he was captured at Island No. 10, and was sent to Camp Butler in Springfield, Illinois. On September 23, 1862 he was sent from Camp Butler to Vicksburg, Mississippi to be exchanged. A record made at the time of his exchange says he had been captured at Fort Donelson, Tennessee on February 16, 1862.

Dyer’s files in Washington, D. C. contain one original pay voucher for $22…his pay for the period January 1 through February 28, 1863. He was again captured at Port Hudson, Louisiana on July 9, 1863, and was paroled there later that month. He received a clothing allotment on November 10, 1863. On December 2, 1863 he was temporarily on furlough stationed at Meridian, Mississippi.

In April, 1864 Dyer was stationed at Fort Powell (state not mentioned in his records). He was captured at Franklin, Tennessee on December 17, 1864, and was forwarded to a military prison at Louisville, Kentucky on January 22, 1865. He spent only a short time at Louisville before he was sent along to Camp Chase, Illinois, where he arrived on January 25. On May 15, 1865 at Camp Chase, Ohio he signed the oath of allegiance to the federal government; his residence was recorded as Montgomery, Alabama. He had a florid complexion, dark hair, blue eyes, and was 5’ 9” tall.

Dyer lies buried in Parker Memorial Cemetery in the south edge of Grapevine, Texas beneath a gravestone supplied by the veterans administration, but it contains no dates of birth or death. Some
other family members, including one man who is the correct age to have been Samuel’s son, are buried nearby; that man is William P. Dyer (1869-1947).

William P. Dyer was the husband of Bettie “Biddie” Driskill, the youngest child of William Franklin Driskill, a Pleasant Glade pioneer and another of our veterans. It seems possible that George S. Dyer may have come to this community in his old age to live with the family of his son and daughter-in-law. Samuel’s death date does not appear in the Texas Vital Statistics records. To this point we have discovered no other personal information about him.