

Case Study #1

Submitted by Walt Huff

John E. Myers b 22 Aug 1841 Pennsylvania, d 13 May 1928 Boise, ID

He is known to have been in the 52nd Regiment, Company E, Pennsylvania Infantry

The question is: Does the military record list a dependent grandmother at the time of his service?

1. Fold3 search
 - a. Select "Civil War" Records
 - b. Enter name of subject
 - c. When the results appear check the box in the middle column for Pennsylvania to narrow down the number of results since we know he was serving from Pennsylvania
 - d. The third column shows the results with a thumbnail of the record
 - e. The record will tell you more information about what the record is and in some instances the Regiment that the soldier was attached to.
 - i. The pension numerical index lists those who have applied for and/or received a pension
 1. The first column to the left indicated if it was an invalid or Dependent pension
 2. The second column from the left indicates whether it is an application (Org) or certificate (Ctf)
 3. The certificate number for John on the second image is the same as the number on the upper left of the first image.
 - ii. The Civil War pension index card gives us the following information:
 1. John enlisted in the military 14 Sept 1861
 2. Details of the Company, Regiment and branch that he served in
 3. Line three has the following information about the soldier.
 - a. Two dates for the invalid pension application, 9 Jan 1882 and 17 Oct 1911. It is possible that his first application was denied.
 - b. The application number.
 - c. The law under which he applied. Age would indicate that he applied as a veteran who was unable to support himself due to his age. This is likely the second date of application.
 - d. His certificate number, which is the same number as on the pension numerical index card.
 4. Line four has the following information.
 - a. The date the widow applied for her widow's pension. Which is two months after her husband's death
 - b. Her application number.
 - c. The date in the "law" column is not explained.
 - d. She would have the same certificate number as her husband and this gives the date her widow's pension is awarded.
 5. Line five. If there were minors in the home they might be awarded a pension also. On this record none are listed.

6. Line six would have a hand written indication if the parent was the pensioner. And the information would be entered in the appropriate columns
 7. The last line indicates the date of his death and location as reported to the Pension Bureau. This may not be the accurate date and may not list the location.
 - f. There is enough information on these indexes to request a copy of the pension application which would give detailed information about his service, his injuries, verification of the marriage and information of any previous wives. It might also contain reports of medical examinations and affidavits from other soldiers he served with.
 - g. The FamilySearch Wiki has an informative page for Union Pension Records
 - i. https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Union_Pension_Records
2. Ancestry.com
- a. The following searches were performed:
 - i. Select "Search" option across the top of the home page
 1. Select Pennsylvania
 2. Select Military
 - a. All military records that Ancestry has for all of the wars is listed here
 - b. The Grand Army of the Republic option is about a meeting they held 4 June 1907. John Myers was not in Pennsylvania
 - c. Civil War Muster Rolls 1861-1869
 - i. The listing starts with the 100th. The user must scroll down to find the 52nd
 - ii. These are the Muster Out Roll and there are 4 pages of images
 - iii. On the first page, in the third group line 8 is listed John E. Myers, private, age 20, he enlisted on Sept 14, 1861 in Burlington, Pa, he was enrolled by Cap G.P. Davis, for the duration of the war, on Oct 29, 1861 they were mustered into service by R.T. Dodd Capt of the 8th Infantry. He was last paid by the paymaster Maj Stevens on Aug 31, 1864. He was traveling from his place of discharge home 157 miles. Under the heading of clothing account his date of last settlement Sept 14, 1863, due soldier \$10.11 and due U.S zero. His bounty was \$100. There are no remarks in the remarks section
 - ii. With the information that he enlisted in Burlington a search was done on the 1860 census for a John Myers in that age range. There are 35 images to the enumeration district. There is one John Myer who is 19 and living with Emanuel Myer. It is possible that John did not live in the township of Burlington but that it was the closest place to enlist.
3. Further research suggestions:

- a. Look at the muster roll and see which other men enlisted on the same date that John did. They may have known each other or possibly were related and joined together.
 - i. John and the other soldiers should be researched in the area in and surrounding Burlington.
- b. Consider ordering the pension file. It is \$75 for the first 100 pages through the archives or contact someone from the list of researchers on the archives web site who might look at it for you and let you know what information is included. If you know someone in the area they might go and copy it for you. The Family Search wiki has links to the archives with information about ordering the pension file.
 - i. https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Requesting_Copies_of_Civil_War_Service_and_Pension_Records
- c. Research records of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in the areas where John lived. He may have joined in one of the other states or counties. They may have information about him and his family. There may also be an obituary.
 1. Several results come up in Google for Grand Army of the Republic Nebraska and the Grand Army of the Republic Idaho. Both areas have historic halls that are now museums.