

For the last four years, I have been searching to know my ancestors. One of them was my great-great-grandfather, Isaac Logan. I learned that he was buried in Clay Center, Kansas and that he had served as a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War. The graves of Civil War veterans usually have a marker next to the headstone to honor them for their service, but when I visited his grave in 2019, I could find no such marker. Determined not to let his legacy be forgotten, I contacted my *SUVCW* brothers at *Old Abe Camp 16* of Topeka, Kansas and they agreed to help me with arrangements for a graveside ceremony (*see story and photos on page 10*).

In the planning for this ceremony, I was thrilled to learn that other descendants of Isaac Logan were living in Kansas, so I sought them out. Four of them came to the ceremony. The *Clay Center American Legion Post* provided an honor guard for a rifle salute.

Right: Five direct descendants of Pvt. Isaac Logan meet for the first time at the ceremony. L-R: David Coleman, Sherry Wilson, Kathy Coleman (each laid flowers at the grave), John Vander Meulen (gave the eulogy), and Shari (Logan) Lambrecht (placed a flag on the GAR marker).



My research of Pvt. Logan’s service revealed he was a member of the *45th Ohio National Guard Regiment* out of Stark County. When he received the call to duty on April 25, 1864, he was a 33-year old farmer in the throes of spring planting with a pregnant wife and four children. One can only imagine the implications this call had on his family. Historian George Perkins put it right when he wrote:

“By 1864 the North had suffered an enormous drain upon her resources and had seen her men sent home from the front suffering from disease and wounds, pitiful survivors of battle in which thousands had gone to their death. The romance and glamour of war had gone, the horror of it remained. There was scarcely a family in the North who did not suffer sorrow that cannot be described, hardly a fireside that did not mourn for a husband, a brother or a friend, who went forth with pride, never to return. Under such circumstances the men of the hundred-days service, knowing just what to expect, hastily arranged their affairs, and from the stores, workshops and farms, flocked to the defense of their country in the hour of its direst need.”

Isaac was assigned to Company D of the *162nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. It mustered on May 20, 1864, at Camp Chase in Columbus. His Company was initially assigned guard duty at the prison at Camp Chase for captured Confederate soldiers. He performed his duties there until mid-June when the entire regiment was ordered into Kentucky to support the repelling of John Morgan's Confederate cavalry. While performing garrison duty in Covington, members of the *162nd* were routinely sent out to arrest prominent secessionists in the region. When the regiment returned to Camp Chase at the end of their 100-days service, they had sustained 22 casualties, all of which were due to disease.

After the war, Isaac and his wife, Harriet, moved to Iowa where they farmed for a few years before coming to Kansas in 1870. By 1873, Isaac had settled on 160 acres in Five Creeks Township. The land office accepted his application to acquire the land under the *Homestead Act of 1862* and in 1880, he obtained the patent to the land.

In the fall of 1878, terror struck the area in the way of a severe diphtheria epidemic. Many children died suddenly and terribly, some losing their entire family. This plague took two daughters from the Logan family, Viola (age 9) and Blanche, (age 7). Coffins were made by kind neighbors, but no services could be held. The bodies were taken to the western slope of a hill called, Table Mounds, and buried in what has since been referred to as, “Diphtheria Cemetery.”

Old newspaper articles about Isaac reveal a man who was a good neighbor and friend. He stood as a witness at the Land Office for other farmers seeking homestead ownership. He was appointed as a “Viewer” for the County Surveyor

Ancestor Profile – Isaac Logan *(continued)*

and he served as a vote canvassing clerk. In 1881, upon the request of a person thankful for the charity bestowed him, the *Clay Center Dispatch* printed his publicly expressed gratitude to Isaac and others for, “courtesies of a substantial character. I was a stranger and they took me in. They gave me hospitality without money and without price.”

When Isaac Logan died of stomach cancer in 1897, his obituary rightly stated, “And thus passes a good man from among us.”

....submitted by [Brother John Vander Meulen](#)

