

Ancestor Profile – Private Isaac C. Sutton

My 2nd great-grandfather, Isaac C. Sutton, was born in Deerfield, Indiana on November 14, 1844. He had five siblings - three brothers and two sisters. On September 5, 1861, Isaac enlisted with the Union Army and served as a Private in Co. G, 8th Indiana. All three of his brothers also enlisted with the Union army

The 8th Indiana was organized at Indianapolis between August 30 and September 5, 1861. It was commanded by William Plummer Benton. On September 10, 1861, the regiment was ordered to St Louis, Missouri. Traveling by train, the 8th Indiana arrived in St. Louis the following day, and was attached to Maj. Gen. John Charles Frémont's *Army of the West, Department of Missouri*.

At the time, Missouri was officially a neutral border state. But loyalties were divided between North and South. Many skirmishes flared between Union and Confederate troops. The secessionist Missouri State Guard was commanded by former Missouri Governor Sterling Price. The 8th Indiana saw action in many of these skirmishes, including Otterville, Blackwater Creek, Springfield, and Wilson's Creek.

The goal of the Union troops was to push the Confederates out of Missouri and into Arkansas. Isaac only saw action in Missouri. He was prone to camp sickness and spent time in hospitals. This camp sickness was best described by regimental surgeon James K. Bigelow in his *Abridged History of the 8th Indiana*:

"On the 22nd of September, we proceeded by rail to Syracuse, where we disembarked from the cars and on the 23rd, took up line to March to Georgetown, where we remained in camp suffering very much from dysentery and diarrhea. Within a few months, a vast number were sent to the hospital in St. Louis, where they remained till October 13th, 1861".

Private Isaac Sutton was one of those soldiers sent to the hospital in St. Louis.

However, by October 20, 1861, Isaac was healthy enough to march with the 8th Indiana to Springfield, Missouri, in pursuit of Gen. Price and his 13,000-man Rebel force. Price had anticipated that movement and had fled Springfield before the Union forces arrived. Only a few skirmishes occurred between the Confederates and the advancing Federals.

During the march to Springfield, a measles outbreak occurred within the Union ranks. Once again Isaac became sick. Regimental surgeon Bigelow later wrote that 140 soldiers of the 8th Indiana were loaded into wagons and transported back to camp in Otterville.

After Gen. Frémont's advance to Springfield, the *Army of the West* was reorganized. Frémont was removed as Commander and replaced by Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck. Gen. John Pope took command of the army forces in Otterville. Col. David Shunk now commanded the 8th Indiana, with Capt. W.H. Riley remaining in command of Co. G.

Right: Isaac C. Sutton and wife, Lovina, in later years

Private Sutton recovered from the measles in time to join the 8th Indiana for the skirmish of Blackwater Creek in Milford, Missouri. The skirmish was fought to stop Col. Franklin S. Robertson of the Missouri State Guard from recruiting men in southwest Missouri to serve for the Southern cause. Gen. Pope was determined to put an end to the Missouri State Guard, and defeated the Confederates at Blackwater Creek on December 19, 1861.

Federal casualties were exceedingly light at Blackwater Creek, with only two killed and eight wounded. Gen. Pope reported the capture of "1,300 men...three colonels



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(Robinson, Alexander, and Magoffin)...one lieutenant-colonel (Robinson), one major (Harris), and 51 commissioned company officers” and “About 500 horses and mules, 73 wagons heavily loaded with powder, lead, tents, subsistence stores, and supplies of various kinds...also 1,000 stands of arms.” However, these claims appear to be overstated as records indicate only “684 guardsmen and several civilians” eventually reached prison.

After Blackwater Creek, Private Sutton received a furlough in hopes he could recuperate from his frequent bouts of sickness. This would not be the case. After returning to duty in the spring of 1862, he spent three more stretches in the hospital. Finally, on August 9, 1862, he received a disability discharge from the service.

Isaac then returned to the family farm in Randolph County, Indiana. His three brothers also eventually returned home safely from the war. Isaac married Lovina Whipple on March 4, 1863 and the couple would become parents of four children. Sons Frank and Harry Sutton were born in Deerfield, Indiana.

In 1880 Isaac and his family moved to Minnesota. He received 160 acres of land through the *Homestead Act of 1862*. Their children Daisy and Jason Sutton were soon born in Harford, Minnesota. After the war, according to his pension records, Isaac suffered from frequent intestinal problems and hearing loss from measles.

An interesting story was that Harry Sutton, my great-grandfather, married the lady that lived on a neighboring farm. Her name was Minerva Sutton. My genealogical research shows no relation between the two Sutton lines, so it wasn't a cousin marriage. Minerva lived to be 97 years old and was the family historian. I remember her telling Civil War stories about my 2nd great-grandfather Isaac Sutton and her father Edward Sutton, both Union civil war soldiers from the Hoosier state!



Forever in search of opportunity, the Isaac Sutton family left Minnesota for Oregon in 1890. Isaac became a member of *Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick Post No. 10, Grand Army of the Republic* in Salem, Oregon. Like many other Union veterans, Isaac spent an enormous amount of time trying to get a military pension. He finally received a monthly invalid pension of \$12.

Left: Isaac Sutton's military grave marker. The inscription reads: ISAAC C. SUTTON – CO. G. – 8 IND. INF.

Isaac's wife, Lovina Sutton, died November 6, 1903. He died 12 years later on October at, 1915. He passed away at the home of his daughter, Daisy Sutton-Rodgers, in Hood River, Oregon. Both he and his wife are buried at City View Cemetery in Salem, Oregon.

G. A. R. Member Dies Here

Isaac C. Sutton, who was approaching his 72nd birthday and who was a member of the Grand Army, passed away here last Friday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. D. Rodgers, of the Heights. The body was shipped to Salem Friday afternoon, interment taking place the next day at the Grand Army cemetery in that city.

In addition to the daughter, Mrs. Rodgers, Mr. Sutton is survived by three sons: J. O. Sutton, of Astoria; Frank A. Sutton, of Salem, and Harry Sutton, who has been making his home in the east.

Right: Obituary for Isaac Sutton published in the historic Hood River Glacier newspaper in Hood River, Oregon on October 21, 1915, pg. 7

... submitted by descendant Terry T. Sutton, Camp GRO