

## Ancestor Profile - Philip and John Apffel

### Iowa's Hundred Days Men

Philip Jacob Apffel was born in Wissembourg, Alsace, France on 6 June 1825 and immigrated to the United States in 1851. He is believed to have arrived at New Orleans before traveling up the Mississippi River to settle in Dubuque, Iowa. He married Katherine Schambeck in that city in 1854 and in 1859 became a naturalized citizen. Throughout the 1850s and early 1860s, he worked as a carpenter and painter. In the waning months of the Civil War, Philip volunteered for military service and became one of Iowa's so-called Hundred Days' Men.

By 1864, the Union army had advanced deep into the Confederacy and was burdened with the task of guarding communication lines throughout its conquered territory. In an effort to relieve the more experienced troops from garrison duty and return them to engage the enemy, the call went out in Iowa to provide volunteers to serve 100-day enlistments for this purpose. The people of the state responded and four regiments were raised: the 44th, 45th, 46<sup>th</sup> and 47th Iowa Volunteer Infantries.

Philip Apffel enlisted on 5 May 1864 and was detailed to Company A of the 46th Iowa Volunteers. Known as the Union Guards, his unit was mustered into service on 10 June 1864 at Davenport, Iowa and sent to Memphis, Tennessee. On 27 June 1864, Company A was sent to Collierville, Tennessee to guard the railroads from rebel attack. On the 28th, his unit was detailed to Camp Look Out, a post three miles west of Collierville, and situated on the Charleston-Memphis rail line. Here they remained until 1 September 1864 when the entire 46th Iowa was ordered back to Memphis. From there, the unit was transported back to Davenport and mustered out of service on 23 September.

Following the expiration of his term of service, Philip returned to Dubuque, where he remained until 1873. By 1874, Philip and his family had relocated to Galveston, Texas, where he and three of his sons were engaged in carpentry and painting. Circa 1882, Philip moved to San Francisco, California where he remained until his death on 18 September 1906. (It should be noted that he survived the April 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and that his death was unrelated to that disaster) Philip was a member of George H. Thomas Post #2, Grand Army of the Republic, and is buried in San Francisco (Presidio) National Cemetery, Section GHT, Row 49, Grave 324.

Philip's brother, John (Johann) Apffel was also a Union Army veteran. John was born 20 January 1833 in Wissembourg, Alsace, France and accompanied his brother to America. He too settled in Dubuque where he married his spouse Magdalena (Madeleine) Knoll in 1856. Along with his brother, John also served in the 46th Iowa for the same period of service. After the war, he migrated to Los Angeles where he died on 16 July 1888. He was buried in Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles and has a military headstone denoting his Civil War service. Of note, John's grandson, Edward Apffel, founded the Apffel Coffee Company in 1914. This firm survives today and sells specialty coffees in gourmet markets throughout southern California.

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