

Ancestor Profile

Pvt. William Moore - Co. K. 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

My great-great-grandfather, William Moore, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, on October 6, 1829. He enlisted at Camp Worthington in Chillicothe, Ohio with his brother, Harrison G. Moore, in Company E, 22nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry on December 5, 1861. This company was transferred and became Company K of the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. According to his pension record, William was 5'11" tall, with blue eyes and black hair and beard. He was a farmer by profession.

At first, the regiment was armed with U.S. Model 1816 converted flintlock muskets in .69 caliber, but eventually they received a shipment of Model 1854 Austrian Lorenz rifle muskets in .54 caliber, which was one of the finest foreign arms in the service. The regiment was ordered to Paducah, Kentucky on February 18, 1862. From there it moved into Missouri, where it joined the Army of the Mississippi and became one of the regiments in the Ohio Brigade. William and Harrison both participated in the battles of New Madrid and Island No. 10. The battle of Island No. 10 was the first battle utilizing the gunboats of the brown water navy. With the combined efforts of the gunboats and the infantry muskets of General John Pope's Army of the Mississippi, the island was captured and the imminent threat of a Confederate presence on the upper Mississippi River was removed. From there, the army marched to Fort Pillow a day after the massacre. In May 1862, the 63rd Ohio was marched to Corinth, Mississippi, where it took part in the siege and occupation of that town until August 1862. In September 1862, William and his brother were in the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi.

On October 3rd & 4th, 1862, they were both in the line to the right of Battery Robinett with the rest of the 63rd Ohio at the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. The 63rd Ohio faced the onslaught of the 2nd Texas Infantry and 42nd Alabama alone, and were eventually involved in a desperate hand-to-hand fight with the Confederates. The colonel of the 2nd Texas, William Rogers of Houston, was killed by gunfire from the 63rd Ohio right in front of Battery Robinett. The Battle of Corinth was one of the most vicious slugfests in the war in either theater of operations. The casualty rates for the number of forces involved was the highest in all four years of the war.

On December 30th and 31st, 1862, the 63rd Ohio was involved in the Battle of Parker's Cross Roads, Tennessee, where the Union forces surprised Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest was hard-pressed, but, as usual, fought his way out with skill and daring.

During their time in Tennessee and Mississippi, William served off and on as the company cook. About this same time, William joined the Pioneer Corps for Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign, and spent much of the next year building corduroy roads through Mississippi and Tennessee. When the chance came, William volunteered for service as a regimental teamster, and eventually became a teamster for the 16th Army Corps (later the 17th Army Corps, Army of the Tennessee). William served as a divisional teamster during Sherman's March to the Sea, and was mustered out due to the expiration of his term of service in Savannah, Georgia on January 12, 1865. His brother Harrison died January 1, 1865, in the army hospital in Dalton, Georgia.

After the war, William went home to Ohio and started farming again, although his first wife Sarah Ann Lunsford died in 1872, leaving him with a son, John Moore, and a farm to run. He was married again in 1873 to Ruth Johnson, and they were to subsequently have four sons: Harrison Gerald Moore (my great grandfather), Andrew Moore, William T. Moore, and Alexander F. Moore. William died September 6, 1894, and was buried in the Bolan Cemetery, in Eagle Township on the border of Vinton and Ross Counties in Ohio.

My other Union ancestors include:

Philip Walter (1836-1911), 2nd gr-grandfather - Co. H, 32nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry

William Absalom Harless (1830-1894), 3rd gr-grandfather - Co. B, 7th West Virginia Cavalry (formerly the 8th Virginia Infantry (Union)).

Jesse Thomas McGee (1829-1903), 3rd gr-grandfather - Co. C, 11th West Virginia Infantry

Jesse P. Durham (1830-1901), 3rd gr-grandfather - West Virginia Union Militia

Jackson Clay (1843-after 1870), 3rd gr-grandfather - West Virginia Union Militia

William Hunter (1793-1862), 4th gr-grandfather - West Virginia Union Militia

Daniel Bradshaw (1802-1879), 4th gr-grandfather - West Virginia Union Militia

Isaac Barker Sr. (1782-1869), 5th great grandfather - West Virginia Union Militia

Also 34 uncles and numerous cousins served the Union, including Major General Rutherford B. Hayes.

Submitted by: Harrison G. Moore IV, PCC - Lt. Cdr. Edward Lea USN Camp No. 2, SUVCW