

Despain Log Chain

Vol. 4, No. 1

January 1970

EDITOR and PUBLISHER

Wilford W. Whitaker, Jr.

1114 - 6th Street

Prosser, Washington - 99350

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Despain Log Chain

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
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GENERAL SOCIETY
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Christmas is past, December over and a new calendar year is upon us. By now most of us have made our New Year's Resolutions and a few of them are probably already broken. The sun has even turned in its southward course bringing us more hours of light and eventually warmer weather.

This should be a time of turning within ourselves as well. The beginning of increasing enthusiasm and dedication to those principles and people we cherish most. And, like the seasons that come, remain a short while and pass, our term of office in the DESPAIN FAMILY ORGANIZATION is growing short. Do we hold the principles upon which our organization is based dear enough to give it a little time: Do we hold our ancestors in high enough esteem to devote a little energy to the discovery and perpetuation of their memories: Have we reached half of our goals or are we well on our way to reaching them: Or have we put off genealogical responsibilities until we had more time: (The only people who have more time are usually incapable of the energy and thought needed for this work. Don't put it off until then!)

The typewriter has been purchased and we should see some more issues of the DESPAIN LOG CHAIN before long. One of the problems associated with the LOG CHAIN is the source of articles. We can't expect Wilford to write every article

CHAIN is the source of articles. We can't expect Wilford to write every article in every issue of the Log Chain. Let's be thinking of ways to get more people writing articles for the various issues of the DESPAIN LOG CHAIN and Chips 'n Links.

THE CHIPS 'n LINKS should be out by now. I haven't seen one at this writing but what I hear from Sue she didn't get much help from the rest of us as far as material to put in. We all have to contribute to make these publications worth the money they cost and to get them to do the jobs for us that they should.



Rifle team on the way to the Kansas State Turkey Shoot included Coach SFC Kenneth G. Evans, Jr., (foreground) and team members. From left are Barbara DeSpain, John Wood, Neil Eklund, Lee DeSpain, and Dave Schreiber.

The Alaska Heroine is young, beautiful and can trap, hunt, pan gold, build a cabin and drive dogs, all this according to Rex Beach and Jack London. What's more, she can do all of these things as well or better than the hardest of the hardy male Alaskans.

That's what Beach and London say, anyway.

On the basis of such good authority we were convinced the Alaska Heroine existed, and when we came to Alaska we wanted to meet her. But she never materialized over the years and gradually we had to admit a disappointed defeat. Then we met Barbara DeSpain, 18, of the Glenn DeSpain family in Fairbanks.

Pretty Barbara first attracted our attention when she set new national college rifle-shooting records and walked away with the championship at the Kansas State Turkey Shoot recently. Representing the University of Alaska she not only out-shot male Alaskans on the team, including older brother Lee DeSpain, but also scored higher than any other shooters on 55 other college and university teams from around the nation.

Does Barbara meet all of the Alaska Heroine qualifications? Well, we're not sure of her gold-panning or cabin-building qualifications, but she can mush the family dog-team and has helped brother Lee on his trapline. And as for shooting—read about it in "Alaska's Annie Oakley" in this issue of Today.

Mush on, Rex Beach. Our faith is restored.



ALASKA'S ANNIE OAKLEY

By Steve Sherman

Annie Oakley of Ohio could rifle plug a dime in mid-air at 20 paces, fill an ace of spades full of holes before it hit the ground, and shoot a cigarette from her husband's mouth with hardly a regret.

That's what they said anyway.

But the "Annie Oakley" of Alaska shoots one better. Eighteen year old Barbara DeSpain of Fairbanks is the pretty, living-breathing confirmation of the old warning never to underestimate the power of a woman, especially fire power.

Barbara led the five-man varsity rifle team of the University of Alaska to a 2238 point national championship in the ninth Kansas State Turkey Shoot last December 2-3, won a personal national championship as an added honor, and broke an individual national scoring record to top it all off in grand style.

"Something happens," Barbara says unpretentiously. "For me everything just seems to go in the center."

At the Kansas Shoot, or any other match, for that matter, Barbara never keeps track of her progressing score. Most shooters do and this, she feels, subtracts the necessary power of concentration.

"I keep saying to myself, 'This is the only shot I'm shooting,'" she explains. "Each shot is my only score."

She asked her coach, Sergeant Ken Evans, how she did at the end of the Kansas match. She didn't know how she stood against her 212 competitors.

Her score broke the national record by one point, a regular thriller from the Wild West Show. Barbara tallied a total of 572 points from a possible 600, breaking the previous record held by a University of West Virginia shooter named John Winter—a boy.

"Being a girl on a rifle team surprises people," Barbara says. "Nobody expects anything from you. Girls aren't supposed to be able to shoot. Boys are the ones expected to do well at shooting. Just because they're boys, I guess."

A girl on a rifle team is not the only unorthodox surprise from Barbara. She uses an inexpensive Model 22 Winchester 22 for small bore competition while everyone else on the team uses the expensive German-made Anschütz.

She shoots from her left eye instead of her right, a practice so unusual only champions get away with it. She shoots best in a standing position, the most difficult, and her center of gravity in shooting stance is misplaced according to all the orthodox rules.

But that's not all. Barbara is a pretty member of her freshman class. She's at home in green corduroy pants and pink sweatshirt or a dress for dancing. She stands 5'6" with long dark brown hair, rosy cheeks, bright, quick smile, fun, fresh, and feminine.

Annie Oakley of Ohio looked more like Buffalo Bill. Barbara looks like Barbara and she can shoot besides!

And that's the truth.

One time she was out hunting geese with a friend from the rifle team. Suddenly, a flock fluttered up and crossed over them. The two of them fired six shots and bagged 18 geese. The legal limit was three to a person but there wasn't much they could do, happily.

Her father Glenn, a plumber and marksman in his own right, nearly collapsed when she told him of the luck.

"He wasn't surprised at the 18 geese with six shots," Barbara laughs. "Ten geese for two persons was illegal and he was up for appointment with the Fish and Game!"

Barbara goes hunting with her father and older brother Lee, also a member of the U of A rifle team, but she seldom kills anything. She goes along "just for the kicks."

All this shooting began with her father and Lee. Big brothers always have had that special attraction and Lee

continued next page

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was an exception. Barbara always wanted to do what Lee did, whether it was running, hiking, hunting or whatever.

One day her father took Lee shooting and Barbara tagged along. That started it all: if Lee could shoot so could Barbara.

She was six years old when she began shooting. By the time she was seven she won her first medal in a match at the Tanana Valley Sportman Association in Fairbanks.

One thing led to another. As a member of the rifle team from Lathrop High School she scored third among the college scores at a previous Kansas Turkey Shoot. She had to compete in the high school division. Nobody could believe it. Certainly, a high school student couldn't score that high among college shooters, and most certainly, not a girl!

But she did.

The Kansas Shoot is always difficult competition. Totals are arrived by the International Scoring system. That means the targets are smaller and the scoring itself more stringent than the conventional National Rifle Association method.

Barbara no longer suffers from "back fever," a special kind of nervousness that affects beginners at tournaments. But she still faces the apprehension that comes with each and every match, no matter which one it is.

Her next shoot as part of the rifle team is the College Sectional held this February 10-11 at Oregon State University. This Oregon Shoot determines the All-American teams and individuals. Competition is high grade and the structure of the match is comprehensive.

The Oregon Shoot includes both individual and team competition under both International and National Rifle Association scoring. The top 10 shooters are classed as All-Americans. No scopes are used. Range is 50 feet. Pressure is critical.

Barbara has a good chance for All-American rating.

But even if she misses the All-American rating this year, she has three more years to compete with the team.



HELPING MEET college expenses, Barbara works week-ends in the Foodland Shopping Market in Fairbanks. Week-days are taken up with a busy schedule of classes at the university, with evenings spent at study or rifle target practice.

— Stewart N. Rothman PH

"We all want to do well," she says. "The University is far away from the other universities and we have to travel so far every time. The team always has an extra incentive to shoot as well as we can or we feel it's a waste of money for the trip."

continued next page

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As capable with a gun as she is photogenic, the team's top scorer Barbara DeSpain aims in the kneeling position.

"Something happens when I pick up a rifle. For me, everything just seems to go in the center."

BARBARA continued from preceding page

No scholarships are provided for members of the rifle team at the University of Alaska. On the other hand, the University of West Virginia does offer scholarships. Barbara was tempted to accept one for a year, not only to ease the financial burden of her education but also to go outside to school.

The University of West Virginia though requires those who accept scholarships to stay at least two years. Barbara doesn't want to do that, one year possibly, but not two.

"I feel I owe something to the University here," she says.

But at the same time she wishes the U of A did offer scholarships, not merely for herself, but to bring up good shooters from Outside. She knew of two good shooters who thought of coming to Alaska but declined because no scholarships were available.

"We could build a good reputation if we could attract people like those two," she maintains.

But it takes time to build talent and a reputation—and it takes money.

One year her father provided ammunition for Barbara to practice shoot. She used over \$100 worth of ammo from October to March for her Winchester .22.

"Those little boxes add up," she says.

Rifles and added equipment are expensive. For years Barbara wanted a special thumb-hole stock so she would have a better grip and position for long-time competition. The stock cost about \$150 and she could never afford one.

Her first prize at the December Kansas Turkey Shoot was a thumb-hole stock.

"After college I'm not sure what I'm going to do to keep up with shooting," she says. "I couldn't afford to pay for my ammo and travel expenses to all the matches. I'll have to see."

"Shooting has a special kind of pressure," Barbara says. "The two pressures are time and the shots you take. For example, most matches require 60 shots in 100 minutes—good shots."

"A shooter can lose by only one shot. But a pole vaulter has only one height to make one time to win. Or a high jumper. A runner has to do his best only once in a match. But for a shooter every shot has to be a winner."

Usually, two targets are used at matches. One is for testing range. The other is for scoring. An entrant can shoot as many shots as he wants for range but he must still shoot a required number for scoring within the time limit.

Matches weren't always regulated this way. In the early days during the mid-1800's shooting matches had bottles, painted tree trunks, or irregularly shaped rocks for targets.

In 1860 target shooting at Wimbledon, England, began to gain in such popularity that some sort of regulation was introduced.

Here in the United States shooting gained favor after the Civil War. The general conviction that the country needed high grade marksmen spread the awareness that shooting was a highly trained skill.

Then in 1871 a group of officers in the National Guard organized the National Rifle Association to regulate and promote skilled shooting and competition. The NRA is still the principal regulating body in this country today.

And the National Rifle Association may have a problem with Barbara DeSpain if she keeps breaking records the way she's doing.

One of these days she may score 600 from 600 possible points. The NRA may have to inaugurate a new category—like plugging dimes in mid-air.

Then Alaska really will have an Annie Oakley.

Coalville, Utah
May 28, 1967

Dear Mr. Whitaker:

This is the report you asked me for in our trip to England.

While in London, England, I visited Somerset House and I obtained some birth records of my ancestors who were born in England. Somerset records are strictly birth, death and marriage records since the year 1837. It is also a do-it-yourself place. You go in and register and pay two shillings and a sixpence; then you go up to the balcony and you get there by way of a case of winding narrow stairs. On the balcony the large red record books are on shelves; you take them from the shelf and put it on a table rack that you stand to and find what you want, and then return the record to where it was. The books are by the quarter, (four books make up one year.) When you have found what you want you fill out an application sheet and submit it downstairs and for two more shillings. For this payment, they will mail you the certified record of it. I had to walk down the street a block and a half in London's drizzling rain for an envelope that was stamped for them to mail me the information.

From here, I went to the Spittlefield area of London where our ancestor was buried in the crypt under the church. This is Christ's Church of Middlesex in Spittlefield area of London. This area is where the French Huguenots lived. Many of them were silk weavers and they fled here from France to avoid the persecutions of the French Revolution. This is still called the Silk Weaver area of London. The Spittlefield Square is very near the church, and it was here that the silk weavers used to display their wares and sell them. This area of London today is very much the slum area of London. The older and poorer area. Many vagrants and "spirit drinkers" are about on the streets and the streets are narrow and very old and dirty. Christ Church was bombed in World War II and is at present boarded up and not in use. The roof was declared unsafe for public use, and no money was available to have it renewed, so it is just standing unused. In connection with the church is a small church school that at one time was operated by the support of the church, but today is paid for by the state which is very meager and understaffed and underpaid. We visited in the school with the head school mistress who was a lovely, gracious lady of about 45 or 50 years of age. She told us about the church and the school and their children in the school. The children were from this area and some boarded at the school, and some went to their homes in the evening. They are very poor children and come from broken homes. Many are orphans and children deserted of mixed marriages, etc. There were about 50 children here from the age of four to about 13 or 14, and the head mistress and three

other teachers do everything. The playground was very small and inadequate in the back of the school. There was just dirt and no grass or flowers, and no cement or black top. The front door was kept locked to prevent children from going to the street and wandering away from school. The records of the church, which I had come there to see, were confiscated by the Church of England before the bombing of World War II and placed at County Hall in a bomb proof place. So I was able to go there and get the record and search it for the family of ANDREW DeSPAIN, who was married in 1706 at St. Dunstons Stepney Church, the Mother Church of Christ Church. I searched the baptismal record of EDMOND DeSPAIN, son of ANDREW and MARGARET in Castle Street on November 2, 1707. I hunted the record carefully until it ended in July 1733, and there was no other DeSpain listed. The record was very old, about 240 to 250 years. The pages were of very heavy paper, but were quite crisp. The writing was large and all very legible.

I plan to do more along this line of hunting the St. Dunstons Record and see what else I can find along this line. My thinking is that the family must have moved after the birth of their first child.

I called Mrs. Irene V. Pearson A. L. A., 6 the Willows, Bois Ave., Chesham Bois, Buchs. She is planning to do research in the French Huguenots records that she said are some old books that are stored in the attic of an old house, and this will take her some time. I would have contacted Rosemary DeSpain, but she was not listed in the London Directory, so I could not.

I was unable to go to Canterbury in Kent and meet the Dr. Urry, as you mentioned, as time did not permit me to do so.

I have written to County Hall and have asked for more research on the records and when I have this information, I will forward it to you. You mentioned in your letter that SAMUEL DeSPAIN was mentioned in his father's will. This may give us the clue as to where Samuel and Margaret went after the oldest child, Edmond, was born. I notice Margaret's father's name was Edmond. As I am certain there was no other DeSpain listed on the baptismal record, however, I didn't get the time to do more search on records, but feel I will be able to do this by mail. Anyway, I am trying.

We also saw the Tower of London and saw the changing of the guards. It was built by William the Conqueror and is very old, and much of it was bombed in World War II, but it has been rebuilt and you can see the new stones that are set in among the very old ones.

In the Tower of London, you go through the area called the Bloody Tower, where prisoners were held until they were beheaded on the gillotine by a man that wielded a very large ax, which we saw. They also had a rack on which they hung beheaded people for a while as an example to the rest of the people. Sir Walter Raleigh was held prisoner here for two years. (The man responsible for bringing tobacco from America to England, and taught the people there how to smoke it.) During the time he was prisoner he wrote the history of the world as it was known at that time. This book is under glass in the room where he was held prisoner. They had planned to behead him, but before they did he died of consumption in the cold rooms that were only heated by a small fireplace in the one room where he spent so much time. The Tower itself is well preserved and is one of the biggest attractions in London. The Tower has ten large, black ravens that live there and are very tame and can be seen on the lawns inside the Tower. They are about 25 years old and weigh about ten pounds each.

The Crown Jewels of England are also kept in the Tower and were on display twice a day when we were there. The line was so long to get to see them that we had to pass this up and our guide said we had to leave in order to see everything. We saw the old Wall of London, and were inside and outside of it. It is only partially intact. It was very much like the Wall in Rome. We visited St. Paul's Cathedral where Sir Winston Churchill's funeral was held. In the front of the church is a statue of Queen Ann, a queen of England who was not very popular, and when the statue was put up they turned her back to the church, as this is what she did when she lived. She was very immoral and had 16 children, none of which lived past the age of 11 years. She did not care for them and did many things to the distaste of the church. We also crossed the Thames River on the famous London Bridge, with its two towers. This was also built in the days of William the Conqueror.

I am writing this on a plane returning from New York City, where I have been since we have returned from England. While I was in New York City I went to the New York Public Library and I saw that you have the DeSpain Log Chain listed, which pleased me. I wanted to check in some census records there, but the only ones available were the Census of New York State. They don't microfilm as does the Church and more is available in Salt Lake City. I got so much I plan to search for when I get back, I think of things so I make notes. My daughter will be out of school right away, so will get my back typing done right away. I'll get the card file to you before long. I have a bit more research to do on it.

I am enclosing a copy of the poem, which was written for our friends, the Lawrences, in England. I wrote this on the plane going to New York City on this trip.

Will close for now, write me when you get the spare moments.

Geno yours,
/s/ Ella R. Adkins

P. S. While in Europe we visited Frankfurt, Germany, and Rome and Milan, Italy. We were in Rome on May 1, which is a holiday in Europe, a vacation day for the laboring people, and we were in St. Peter's when the Pope spoke the May Day speech. We were very close as our guide took us in the back way and came out a door very near where the Pope was speaking and saw all the old things.

Written on a 727 jet plane to New York City, May 24, 1967, for our friends,
the Victor Lawrances, in England who have just Joined the Church.

FINDING THE WAY

How strange to us mortal souls,
As we daily grope our narrow way,
Are the wide Eternal goals
Of Him who holds all sway.

By faith alone, He bid us walk
As Father said, "Go, now, to learn
In yonder school prepared for you
But lo, my hand will guide you.

You shall not walk alone
Though dark and rugged be your way;
All your desires to me are known.
Remain of open mind and heart:
Please allow me to guide your way.
All things will come to pass
That are expedient to your day."

Now in our second estate today
We meet unfamiliar faces
But wait! Are they so unknown?
They seem unfamiliar yet familiar.
It seems elsewhere we may have known
And walked together the scented paths
In gardens Royal and fair.

Now events have caused our paths to cross
Though expanse of space marks us between
This cannot be but quirk of chance
A purpose deep now comes to view.
His love intercedes to mark a path-
A way hitherto unknown.
His everlasting joy is spread
Before us like a feast.

He bids us sup and sup again
Then go walk the way He trod.
Dearest Brother and Sister, I know this path
Leads back to God.

By Ella B. Adkins

I would like to tell those who didn't get to come to the family reunion this year that they missed a wonderful time. There were games for the children, contests for teenagers, and good old-fashioned visiting for adults. Many there were who hadn't seen each other for years. Some new sons-in-law and daughters-in-law were there, and of course, many new toddlers who were all dressed up for their first reunion. The youngest was three weeks old and the eldest was eighty-five.

I have never seen so much interest in genealogy. Several brought their Books of Remembrance so those who needed some dates and names were able to get a great deal of information for which they had been looking.

One of the highlights of the reunion this year was a presentation of the life story of the three wives of Solomon Joseph Despain, a man who joined the Mormon Church and emigrated west to Salt Lake City. The stories of devotion to God and their family made us thrill to be a descendant of such a wonderful people.

The place where the reunion was held was interesting in that it was near the homestead of Solomon Joseph Despain. For those who have never been there, let me say that it is near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, near the towering Granite Peaks. In fact, the little village is called Granite in recognition of the awe-inspiring mountains.

We also heard an account of the travels of James Harris Despain, a brother of Solomon Joseph, who came westward together. This was given by Mrs. Flora Cook, one of James Harris's great-grand daughters.

Another interesting event that happened at the reunion was that Arvard Fairbanks, the great American sculptor, whose works adorn the courts of kings and the nation's Capitol, had just purchased the old chapel where the reunion was held. Since the old church was the scene of many of his early experiences, he was

in the process of moving many of his works and their plaster models into the building during the day of the reunion. Dr. Fairbanks plans to make a studio and exhibit site of the old Granite Church.

Because he was acquainted with so many of those who were there, Dr. Fairbanks was asked to recount some of his memories of his associations with the Despain family in and around Granite.

Mr. W. W. Whitaker, Jr., told of the life of Charlotta, the youngest wife of Solomon Joseph Despain. Verne Despain told of his grandmother, Susan Dean, the second wife of Solomon Joseph Despain. He asked several of his sisters to stand before the group and then said that there "stood a composite picture of Grandmother Susan Dean." And they made a beautiful "composite" picture indeed.

Mrs. John Maynes (Iouretta) recounted the life of Ruth Amelia Solomon Joseph's first wife and said how patient and long-suffering she was, though confined to her bed for many years, she was always sweet and kindly. Appreciation was expressed for the care and kindness of "Aunt" Susan Dean, who carefully cared for Ruth Amelia.

The weather-man cooperated, and altogether a wonderful time was had by all who attended the reunion. We are already planning for a bigger and better reunion next year.

Incidentally, let's all send in our subscriptions to the Despain Log Chain and those of us who can should contribute more. It will take \$25 from many of us to keep the Despain Log Chain coming.

Also, let's start planning for the next family reunion. It will be in the forefront of August. - Just when, we don't know yet, but we will let you know within the next month or so. Those of you who live in far-off places should plan your family vacations so that you can be in Utah then.

LET'S HAVE A REAL GATHERING
LET'S HAVE A REAL GATHERING OF THE CLAN IN 1966!!



DESPAIN REUNION Sat. 28 Aug. 1965. Back of
Old Granite Ward Chapel. Some of Despain family.

Old Granite Ward Chapel looking up little Cotton-
Wood Canyon. 28 Aug 1965.



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



This picture was taken from the old Granite Cemetery, looking east up Little Cottonwood Canyon. The solid granite hills loom up in the background. The arrow points to the old granite quarry, where granite was quarried for the Salt Lake Temple before 1900 and where today the Genealogical Society of the LDS Church has its storage vaults for microfilm and records. Nestled among the trees is the old Granite Church Building, symbolizing man's faith amid Nature's overtowering granite edifice. The grave of Ruth Amelia Newell Despain, wife of Solomon Joseph Despain, and known affectionately as "Grandma Aunt Ruth" is in this graveyard, close to these sunflowers in the picture. Although some graves have been well-kept, the cemetery is in a general state of disrepair, and weeds and native grasses are beginning to claim the graveyard again. Many Despains and relatives are buried here. Could a fund be started for perpetual maintenance of this cemetery by descendants of Ruth Amelia Newell Despain? (Photo by Arch)

Dr. Avard Fairbanks, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, University of Utah, Salt Lake, has recently purchased the old Granite Ward Church at Granite.

Descendants of Solomon Joseph Despain, the first Bishop of the Granite Ward, will be pleased to learn that Dr. Fairbanks plans to open the building as a studio and where he will exhibit many of his world-famous works of art.

A brief history of the Granite Ward can be found in the Despain Log Chain, Vol. 1, #6, page 22. A sketch accompanies this article picturing the Church as it looked a few years ago.

A photo and article about the Church when it was being built is on page 28, Vol. 1, #7, of the Despain Log Chain.

Ella Eugenia Despain Boyce wrote a short article about the history of Granite, Utah, which will be published at a later date.

Dr. Avard Fairbanks, though not a member of the Despain family, has done a service to the family and to the residents of Utah by preserving this historic landmark for their further use.

There was talk of tearing the old Ward Building down as it was no longer being used, when Dr. Fairbanks decided to look into the site. Situated at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, on a bench overlooking the entire Salt Lake Valley, the building

is ideally situated as a haven for the Arts.

Dr. Fairbanks was born in Provo, Utah, 2 Mar. 1897, one of 8 children. His ability was early apparent. His father and one brother were excellent artists. Avard Fairbanks married Maude Fox in 1918.

Dr. Fairbanks has done many statues which have earned him world-wide fame. Several of the works in stone around Temple Square in Salt Lake City were wrought by his hand.

The medal "Courage" which was presented to England's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was designed by Dr. Fairbanks.

His statue of Lincoln, finished 1941, is in Washington D. C. and a replica of it is now in the Hawaiian Islands.

Possibly his most famous work is "Flag Raising at Iwo Jima," or "Raising the Flag." The Eagle Gate Memorial was also done by Dr. Fairbanks.

Other works of his, showing great strength and careful workmanship, are: "David Whitmer," Oliver Cowdery & Martin Harris;" "Marcus Whitman;" "Winter quarters;" "The Holy Sacrament;" "Memorial" of the Ninety-First Division, at Fort Lewis, Wash.; "The Crusader"; and many others.

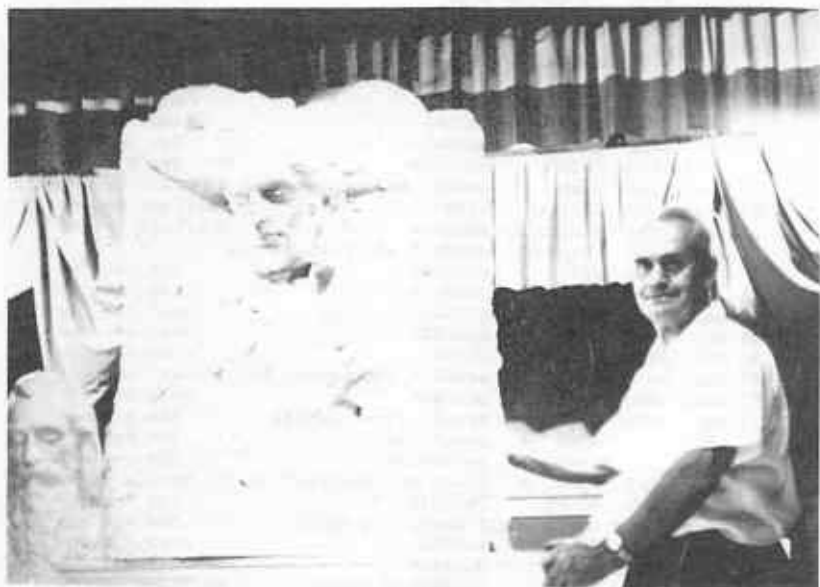
One of his favorite works is his latest creation, "Madonna and Child," finished this past summer and has been on display in Granite. The detail of line and strength of character are evidence that this was truly a work of love.



Girl Bunting, from the original woodblock by Thomas Bewick, done for his "History of British Birds," Newcastle, 1797-1804.
The Free Library of Philadelphia



MADONNA by Avard Fairbanks.



Avard Fairbanks, new owner of the Old
Granite Ward Chapel.



1800 Census of Green County, Kentucky (Reconstructed) (Partial)
Reconstructed from Tax lists, Deed Records, Marriage Bonds, etc.

29 May	1792	ZEPHANIAH	BELL	Court Records
"		EDWARD	LEWIS	Court Orders
"		JACOB	BALE	Court Orders
"		JAMES	SHIELDS	Court Orders
"		RICHARD	SKAGGS	Court Orders
"		JACOB	GUM	Court Orders
"		JOHN	PHELPS	Court Orders
	1795	PETER	DESPAIN	Tax Records
	1796	PETER	DESPAIN	Tax Records
27 Sept.	1798	JOHN	CHISM md. ESTHER LYNN	MARRIAGE Record
27 Sept.	1798	BENJAMIN	LYNN	Marriage Record
27 Sept.	1798	MAHSHALL	DESPAIN	Marriage Record
8 Jan.	1799	MAHSHALL	DESPAIN md. Rachel Lynn	"
	1799	PETER	DESPAIN	Tax Records
	1800	PETER	DESPAIN	Tax Records
26 May	1800	MAHSHALL	DESPAIN & RACHEL	Deed Records
26 May	1800	JAMES	DESPAIN	Deed Records
26 May	1800	GROLSON	DAVIS	Deed Records
27 June	1800	JAMES D.	SPAIN - 100 acres - Tax &	Deed Records
27 June	1800	PETER	DESPAIN	Deed Records
15 May	1801	JOHN D.	SPAIN (two listed)	Tax Records
"		JOHN D.	SPAIN, Jr.	Tax Records
"		John D.	Spain, Sr.	Tax Records
28 June	1801	JOHN D.	SPAIN md. SHARLOTT DANIEL	Marr. Records
16 July	1802	SCOTT	DESPAIN, Jr.	Tax Records
22 July	1802	JAMES SCOTT	DESPAIN & SALLY	Tax Records
16 Aug.	1802	TRAVIS	ELMORE	Deed Records
23 Apr.	1803	SCOTT	DESPAIN	Tax Records
23 Apr.	1803	PETER	DESPAIN & NANCY	Marriage Record
26 App.	1805	RICHARD	SKAGGS & ELIZABETH	Deed Records
"		JACOB	GUM & MARY	Deed Records
"		ZEPHANIAH	BELL	Deed Records
"		WILLIAM	JONES	Deed Records



ALVIN AND IDA (WILLIS) DESPAIN FAMILY REUNION 1965

Descendants of the Alvin and Ida (Willis) Despain Family met August 21st and 22nd, 1965, at McGaffey National Park, 12 miles east of Gallup, New Mexico, for their Annual Family Reunion.

Informality was the theme as family members began arriving on Friday evening from as far away as Cottonwood, Arizona, for two days of camping among the tall pines. Games, visiting and entertainment were on the agenda for the affair. Meals were pot-luck and with most food prepared ahead of time, everyone was care-free to enjoy themselves.

Saturday morning was spent playing volley ball, horse shoes, ping-pong, a short hike to the near-by Ranger Station or a game of your choice. By noon most of the thirty-seven members who attended were present and following the noon-day meal a business meeting was held with the retiring president, Lyle Tinker, presiding. Several by-laws were amended, membership dues were changed from \$1.00 a year per family to \$5.00 yearly in order to provide more funds for genealogical research. New officers elected were: Elaine Ruple, president; Rilla Perkins, vice-president; Carma Matoush, secretary; and Roy McCleve, editor of the Family Bulletin; genealogist, which had previously been made a life office, was retained by Mary Brimhall.

A report from the genealogist revealed much activity along that line with over 600 hours spent on research, which resulted in 56 family group sheets and nine family histories being added to the Family Records in the past year. Pictures of several ancestors were available for those who wished to purchase them at cost.

A brief afternoon thunder shower failed to dampen the spirits of those present as games resumed and entertainment with songs from various family members filled the evening.

Sunday morning members gathered for breakfast and with long trips ahead for most of them, many felt the need to be on their way home by noon. Those who wished to remain longer drove to near-by McGaffey Lake to stay Sunday night.

Families attending were those of: Don and Beth (Camp) Despain, Heber, Arizona; L. J. (Jack) and Altha (Despain) Hatch, Cottonwood, Arizona; Mae (Malone) Despain and Marion and Rilla (Despain) Perkins from Snowflake, Arizona; Ardie and Ruth (Despain) Simpson, Cedar Hill, New Mexico; Jesse and Delilah (Despain) Evans, Aztex, New Mexico; Lyle and Cleah (Evans)

Tinker, Bloomfield, New Mexico; Wayne and Mary (Despain) Brimhall, Farmington, New Mexico; William (Bill) and Elaine (Evans) Ruple, and Walter and Linda (Agee) Evans from Gallup, New Mexico. All living members of the original family were present with the exception of the youngest daughter, Vernell (Despain) Stover, Phoenix, Arizona, who was unable to attend due to illness.

The 1966 reunion is scheduled to be held at Paradise Park near McNary, Arizona, the third week-end in August.

Nov. 1965

PLEASANT DESPAIN

PLEASANT DESPAIN, son of BENJAMIN DESPAIN, SR. and EDITH LEWIS, is born in Kentucky about 1822. He married about 1846 to SARAH JANE UTTER, dau. of ADAM MUTTER, of Green Co., Ky. In 1846 PLEASANT DESPAIN and SARAH JANE gave a Power of Attorney to his brother WILLIAM DESPAIN (who married Mary C. LaRue and later settled in Galesburg, Illinois).

Green Co., Ky. Deed Book 20:187 - 10 Feb. 1846

"PLEASANT DESPAIN and SARAH JANE, his wife, who was SARAH JANE MUTTER, of Warren Co., Ill., Power of Attorney to WILLIAM DESPAIN of Green Co., to deed to FRANCES SPRATT their interest in estate of ADAM MUTTER, decd. one seventh part."

In the 1850 Census of Warren Co., Illinois, we find the following family:

DESPAIN, PLEASANT	28	Male	Kentucky	(place of birth)	\$600	(value)
" SARAH	26	Female	Virginia			
" WILLIAM	2	Male	Illinois			
" BENJAMIN	3	Male	"			
" EDITH	1	Female	"			

This family has not been found in the 1860 Census, as yet, but are found in?? (I guess I have not found them in the 1870 Colo. census yet.)

In addition to the above children Pleasant Despain had four more sons and any more daughters? Children of Pleasant Despain and Sarah Jane:

1. BENJAMIN b. 18 May 1848, at Galesburg, Knox Co., Illinois.
md. 17 Sept. 1874, at Denver, Colo. to Rosa Sims.
2. WILLIAM b. abt. 1849, died 29 Jan. about 1919 (see later)
married Mrs. Susan Gay?
3. EDITH b. abt. 1850 - nothing more known at this time.
4. JERRY "
5. JAMES W. "
6. RICHARD "
7. PLEASANT, JR. b. 15 Dec. 1858, at Monmouth, Illinois, died ?
married 15 May 1883, at Westminster, Colo., to Myrtle F. Davis.

Pleasant Despain was the first settler of Westminster, Colorado.

Recently this newspaper clipping came to me:

1918-19 (By International News Service to The Telegram.) On the back is a war story and a mention of Secretary of War Baker, so the date is about 1919. DENVER, COLO. Feb. 2, ? (faded) With the filing in the county court at Brighton of the petition of Andrew C. Stinson and Susan Gay Despain asking for the removal of I. R. Reed as administrator of the estate of WILLIAM DESPAIN has come to light the strange story of a marriage kept secret for fifty-three years.

William Despain died 29 Jan. last, leaving no will. For fifty-three years he had lived in the home of Mrs. Susan Gay, as she was known, near Broomfield. Mrs. Gay was left a widow just before Despain became a boarder at her home. She is now 86 years old.

For some reason Despain and Mrs. Gay desired to keep their marriage, which took place a short time after he went to live at her home, a secret.

Neither Despain nor his wife ever anticipated the necessity of proving the marriage and the man and woman grew old together without a thought that the estate owned by them in common might ever be claimed by any other person.

Soon after their marriage a son was born to them, who was given the name of Andrew C. Stinson, for no other reason than to keep the fact of the marriage a secret, Mrs. Despain says.

Despain had three brothers, who refuse to recognize either Mrs. Despain or Stinson as heirs of William Despain. They asserted themselves to be heirs and filed a petition on which Reid was appointed administrator of the estate.

This is a rather interesting human interest story. If possible, I'd like to know the final results, which can probably be ascertained at the county courthouse at Brighton.

I wonder if the girls named Gay in the picture are some relation to Mrs. Susan Gay?

As you can see, we need more data to make a complete family group, but this is a good start on these families.

In the History of Colorado by Stone are sketches of Benjamin Despain (son of Pleasant) and of Pleasant, Jr. (son of Pleasant).



Mr. Fennig's Ball
From Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"
London, 1843
The Free Library of Philadelphia, Elkins Collection

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

by BRUCE DESPAIN

This excellent map, researched and drawn by BRUCE DESPAIN, shows where SAMUEL DESPAIN lived in North Carolina, where he had some land transactions and where his will is recorded for 1783 in Warren County. There are two maps, the larger map to detail the known waterways and to give present-day boundaries. The smaller map gives modern boundaries in solid lines and the areas which have changed for the period indicated are shown by a dashed line. The information is from Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1783, Raleigh, 1950, By David L. Corbett, passim. Some areas are not too finite as indicated.

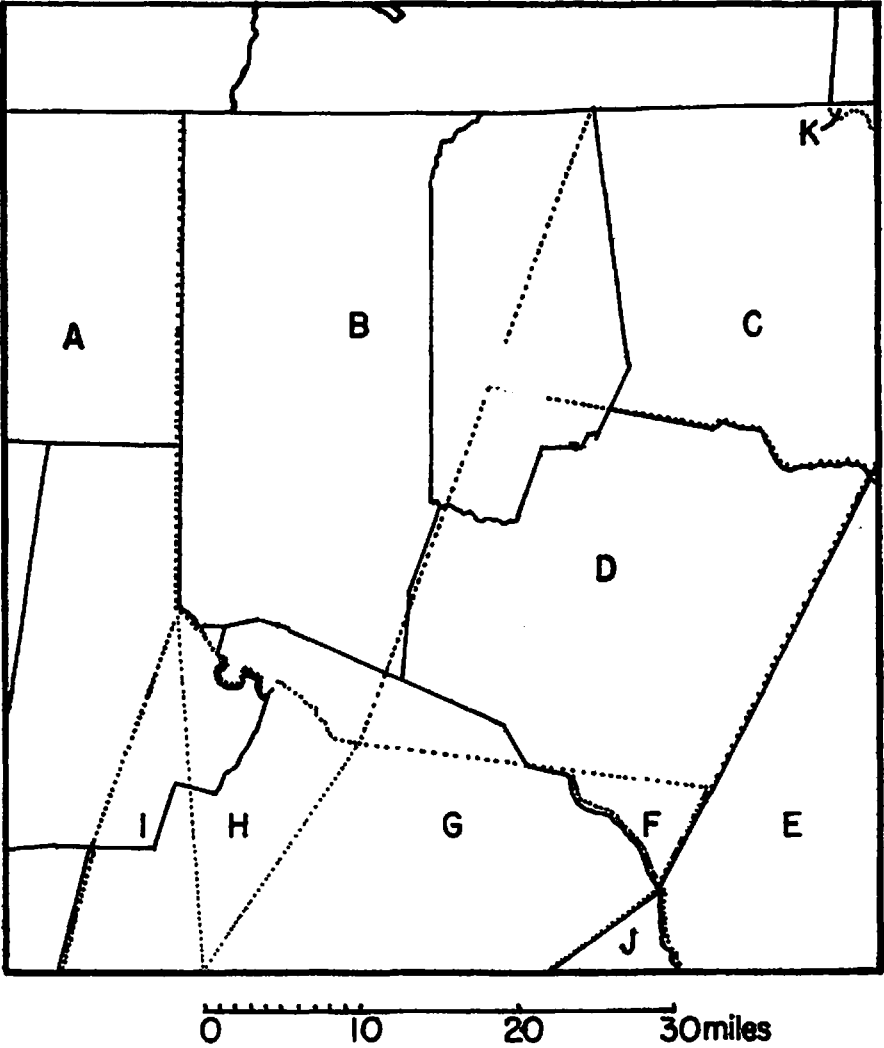
NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

Areas enclosed by solid lines: Counties today.

Areas enclosed by dotted lines: Counties in 1753 - 1787

ORANGE COUNTY	G	JOHNSTON 1770 WAKE
GRANVILLE	H	ORANGE 1761 JOHNSTON 1770
GRANVILLE 1764 BUTE	I	WAKE
WARREN		ORANGE 1770 WAKE
GRANVILLE 1764 BUTE 1779	J	JOHNSON
NASH	K	NORTHAMPTON 1766 BUTE
JOHNSON 1787 FRANKLIN		WARREN

[N.B. - The line between B and C and the one between B and D are not completely reliable, as they could not be determined very well. It is the line between GRANVILLE and SAINT JOHN'S PARISHES in 1764.]



SOLOMON DESPAIN and CELIA GRIFFITH

or

Finding a "Lost" Family

SOLOMON DESPAIN, son of John Despain and Susan Scott, married (1) NANCY BELL 4 July 1807, in Green County, Kentucky. They had children born to them in Kentucky & Alabama. SOLOMON JOSEPH DESPAIN, their son, speaks of his mother and step-mother very briefly in his "Journal."

"When I was quite young, my father, SOLOMON DESPAIN, and my mother NANCY BELL DESPAIN, moved to the state of Tennessee with their family, consisting of eight children, four boys and four girls, myself being the seventh child. My mother died when I was quite young and I lived with my oldest sister under whose tuition I was taught good principles.

"My father again married and moved to Arkansas and then to Illinois in 1838 where we remained for many years. . ."

SOLOMON DESPAIN married (2) CELIA GRIFFITH somewhere in Tennessee, date unknown as of this writing. This writer is of the opinion that CELIA GRIFFITH is the daughter of JONATHAN THADDIOUS GRIFFITH, but that family has not been completely researched and proof is lacking.

For many years this was about all the information the DESPAIN FAMILY had about this second marriage of SOLOMON DESPAIN. Then in January 1965 the Despain Log Chain was published and sent to over 1500 known DESPAIN descendants and to several libraries and genealogical societies in the United States.

On 15 September 1965, the writer received the following letter from William A. Barrett, 142 West Water Street, Painted Post, New York:

"I noticed an account of your publication on the Editors' page of July-Sept. Volume 9, Number 3, of the Virginia Genealogist.

"It so happens my great uncle Wm. F. Barrett born Scott County, Ill. 5 Jan 1835, was married to MARGARET JANE DESPAIN 22 Aug. 1856. She died 7 Feb. 1905, and he died 17 Feb. 1915. They are buried in Vernon Cemetery, Bentonport, Iowa.

"Their only son MARION FRANCIS BARRETT, born 28 Jan. 1868, at Bentonport, Iowa, was married to ROSABELLE DE SPAIN in 1895-1898. She was born at Clarence, Missouri, and died 8 March 1916, at Deadwood, South Dakota.

"ROSABELLE was niece of MARGARET JANE but I do not know the parents' names.

"Can you dig up back copies for me and enter my subscription."

Of course, by this time I was pretty excited because I knew that we were on the track of one part of the DESPAIN family that had been "lost" to us. I wrote back stating that I believed that MARGARET JANE DESPAIN was the daughter



of SOLOMON DESPAIN and his second wife CELIA GRIFFITH, because of the 1850 U. S. Census of Calhoun County, Illinois:

46-46	DE SPAIN,	SOLOMON	60	M	Farmer	North Carolina
		CELA	42	F		_____?
		MARGARET				
		JANE	12	F		Illinois
		GEORGE				
		W. A. J. ?	8	M		"
		FRANCIS				
		M. M. B.	8	M		"

Thus began a very interesting correspondence with a fine gentleman and an interested genealogist and an avid photographer who has helped the Despain Family in many ways, with no thought of personal remuneration but only of helping us with the FAMILY HISTORY. We owe Mr. Barrett a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness. Following are excerpts from some of his letters-

"While I have no direct connections with the De SPAIN FAMILY, it was my hopes to enrichen the life of these two second cousins:
Mrs. Vivian (Frye) Hamilton. Rt. #2, Box 427 A, Evergreen, Colorado,
Lt. Roger William Maxwell Barrett (ret) Rt. #1, Box 168, Keosauqua,
Iowa, granddaughter and grandson of MARGARET JANE (DESPAIN)
BARRETT.

"Your hopes are realized because it is almost certainly the five names you listed on the chart as children of SOLOMON DE SPAIN & CELIA GRIFFITH are the grandmother and great aunt & uncles of the above two mentioned people.

"MARGARET JANE DE SPAIN had two twin brothers, GEORGE & MARION. I quote from a letter written by Roger Barrett 25 Feb. 1964.
"My grandmother Jane had twin brothers, one of whom became my grandfather on my mother's side George DE SPAIN."

"GEORGE was a union soldier during the Civil War and MARION was in the Confederate Army. They used to argue a lot after the war in a friendly way at my uncle George's home in Siloam Springs, Arkansas."

(Though this is an interesting family tradition, the writer has the Civil War records of the twin brothers, proving that both were in the Union Army, more of which later.)

"My friend, you have a novel idea and are to be both encouraged and congratulated: I wish the Barretts were as easy to trace. " ! !

"You are correct, I have some very old photographs of the DE SPAINS. A tin type of each GEORGE & MARION DE SPAIN, brothers of MARGARET JANE, one of GEORGE in later life; LOUISE, daughter of MARGARET JANE, and her husband MARTIN MUSSELMAN, and a copy of MARGARET JANE's oldest daughter FRANCES ELIZABETH age 17 in her wedding dress when married in Chicago, 1878.



"I will be glad to help you and expect no pay. These tin types have 100 years of battering and I will copy... (and retouch)..."

Mr. Barrett fulfilled his promise and sent copies of the above mentioned photographs which are printed with this article. The copies were not too good, owing to the condition of the originals and need extensive retouching and are reproduced here as good as possible.

Through this correspondence, two old DESPAIN family Bibles have been located, but copies have not been secured from their owners as of the present writing. It is the hope of the writer that interested persons will contact the owners of these Bibles personally and obtain a copy of the family data found in the Bibles; one Bible is thought to be the Bible of SOLOMON DESPAIN & his family!! The old Bible is now in the possession of Mrs. J. L. (Kitty J.) Mathis, who has been living with the family of W. L. Hargrove, 3308 East Haskell St., Tulsa, Oklahoma. The other Bible is in the possession of Mrs. Ted Perrine, editor of one of the newspapers in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.



A Mediaeval Bookman
From "Dialogus creaturarum"
Lyons, 1511
The Free Library of Philadelphia

28 May 1968

COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORD OF FRANCIS MARION DESPAIN

WAR DEPARTMENT, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, 3 Sept. 1886.
557156 - S. C. 390404.

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions.

MARION D. SPAIN, a Private of Company H, 11th Regiment, Missouri State Militia Cavalry, (Mo. S. M. Cav.) Volunteers, was enrolled on the 4 day of April 1862, at Shelbyville, During the War, and is reported: on rolls of Co. from 4 Apr. '62 (date of muster in) to 31 Aug. 1862 present. Rolls of Co. L. 2 Mo. S. M. Cav. (to which designation or above Co. was changed by Consolidation 1 Oct. '62) for Sept. & Oct. '62 and to June 30, '63, present as Corpl. July & Aug. '63 absent sick in Hospl. at Cape Girardeau since Aug. 27, '63.

Regth. returned for July '63 does not account for absent enlisted men of Co. L by name. Roll Sept. & Oct. '63 absent on scout. Nov. & Dec. '63 and to 31 Oct. '64 present. Nov. & Dec. '64 Discharged.

He was mustered out with Det. at Benton Barracks, Mo. 27 Nov. '64 by reason of reenlistment in the general volunteer service, to take effect from date of reenlistment. He is also borne as Marion De Spain.

MARION DE SPAIN, a Private of Company B, 14 Regiment Mo. Cav. Volunteers, was enrolled on the 16 Day of Nov. 1864, at St. Louis, Mo, 3 years..

Roll and Regtl. returns Nov. & Dec. '64 not on file. Rolls Jan. & Feb. and to 31 Oct. '65, present. He was mustered out as Sergt. with Co. at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. 17 Nov. 1865.

Regimental Hospital records 14 Mo. Cav. show him treated from 31 May to 1 June '65 for "Leatawh", 29 Aug. to 31 '65 "Diarrhrea." Company morning reports Co. B 14 Mo. Cav. show him 29 Aug. '65 from "duty to present sick." 1 Sept. '65 from present & sick to duty.

Regimental Hospital records 11 & 2 Mo. S. M. Cav. furnish no information. The records of this office furnish no evidence of alleged disability.

Thomas Wood (Ward?)

BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS -*

22 Apr. 1912 - personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, MARION DE SPAIN, who declares he is 70 years of age, a resident of Siloam Springs, Benton County, Arkansas. He enrolled at Shelbyville, Mo. under the name of Marion De'Spain on the 16 Nov. 1864 as a Co. Sergeant in Co. B. 14 Regmt, of Mo. Vol. Cavalry, in the Civil War and was honorably discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kas. on the 17 day of November 1865. That he also served in the 11 Mo. S. Vol. Cav. fall 1862 consolidated with 2 Mo. S. M.

I served from 6th April 1862 until 16 Nov. 1864 in Co. L. 2nd Co. H. 11th MSM.

5 feet 6 inches; fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, occupation: soldier; born 6 March 1842 at Calhoun County, Ill.

Lived after service Shelbyville, Mo. 1865; Macon City, Mo., 1885 then to Hunting, Ark. 1900 from there to Siloam Springs, Ark. He has applied for pension No. 390 404. Post office is Siloam Springs. Witnesses: David Smith & Caleb Baldwin.
A. Y. Killingsworth, Notary Public

22 Apr. 1912 - Siloam Springs, Ark. A. Y. Killingsworth, Justice of the Peace and Notary Public...

J. L. Davenport
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir

This is claim of MARION DE SPAIN who is a twin brother GEORGE W. DESPAIN whom has applied for Pension under Cert. No. 786 922 who has an affidavit on file in his claim proving his age.

You can refer to it; if there is any question of age (Marion).

Yours truly
A. Y. Killingsworth
Notary Public

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF PENSIONS -

1 May 1912 - Respectfully referred to the Adjutant General War Dept. for the personal description and age of this soldier at enlistment.

(2 enclosures) Inv. Cft, 390 404 MARION DE SPAIN H 11 Mo S. M. Cav.
L 2 Mo S. M. Cav.
B 14 Mo Cav.

WAR DEPARTMENT - Adjutant General's Office - 3 May 1912 -

Respectfully returned to the COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS, with the information that in the case of MARION D. SPAIN, Co. H, 11 Regt Mo. S. M. Cav.
L 2 " " " " "

the records show personal description as follows:

age 20; height 5 feet 6½ inches; complexion fair; eyes blue; hair light; place of birth Ill. occupation farmer. Also borne DESPAIN & DeSPAIN.

MARION D. SPAIN Co. B 14 Mo. Cav. age 21; height 5 feet 6½ inches; com. fair; eyes blue; hair light; born Calhoun Co., Ill.; a farmer; also borne De Spain.

Mr. Marion De Spain, Siloam Springs, Ark.

BIRTH: 6 March 1852 - Calhoun Co., Ill.

ORG. in which you served - Co. B. M/S/M., Cavalry

Post Office at enlistment - Shelbyville, Mo.

Present wife's full name and her maiden name: LOUISA VIRGINIA DESPAIN WEEKLY.

When and by whom were you married - Shelby Co., Mo.

Any record - No

Previously married - (no answer given)

Present wife previously married - (no answer given)

Are you living with your wife? wife is dead

Names and birth of all your children:

JAMES E. DE SPAIN

DORA E. "

GEO. T. "

BELLE T. "

ANNA KATE "

VIRGINIA M. "

ARTHUR "

EMMETT "

WILLIE "

MARION DE SPAIN (his mark)
18 July 1917.

MARION DE SPAIN dropped from Pension because of death 28 Apr. 1920
National Military Home - Kansas - Act of May

16 Jan. 1868 - Francis Marion Despain married to Louisa B. Weekly in Shelby
Co., Mo. - (Elsberry - 977, 832 V25e, p. 9)

MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS of GEORGE WASHINGTON DESPAIN

4 Mar 1891 - War Department - Military Service - No. 933771

Sir: It is alleged that the above-named man enlisted 23 Aug. 1862 and served
in Co. F, 99 Reg't Illinois Infantry and was discharged on 15 Aug. 1865.
Please furnish an official statement.

5 May 1891 - War Department - Pension Division - The rolls show that GEORGE
W. DESPAIN was enrolled 6 Aug. 1862 and mustered out 31 July 1865 - as of
Co. A, 99 Illinois Infantry to which transferred from Co. F. same Regiment.

19 Jan 1900 - Bureau of Pensions - Request a full military and medical history
of the soldier; also his age at enlistment.
Inv. Dft. No. 786,922 - name GEORGE W. DESPAIN, Co. A, 99 Reg't Ills. Inf.

Record and Pension Office - GEORGE W. DESPAIN (Capt. Smith) Co. F, 99
Reg't Ill Inf. was enrolled 6 Aug. 1862 and M.O. 31 July 1865, age at enlist-
ment 20 yrs. Was transf'd from Co. F. to Co. A, Nov. '64 and from 6 Aug.
1862 to 31 July 1865 he held the rank of Corp. and Pvt. and during that period

the rolls show him present except as follows:

Apr. 30/63 left at Millikens Bend, sick. Apr. 30/64 Detailed to go to New Orleans with prisoners. Apr. 23/64. The medical records show him treated as follows: "No record found."

Deadwood, Lawrence County, South Dakota - 6 Apr. 1912 - Personally appeared before me (Sol Stow? Clerk of Circuit Court) BELLE BARRETT, to me well known to be the person described in and being first duly sworn. . . says that she is a married woman over the age of twenty-one years, that she is a citizen of the U. S., and that she is the daughter of MARION DESPAIN and a niece of GEORGE W. DE SPAIN both of whom are applicants for increased pension - that I am now and have been for seven years last in possession of the Family Bible, containing the birth record of the DeSpain Family and that on one page of the said Bible is recorded the following in words and figures as follows to wit:

GEORGE W. DE SPAIN Born 6 March 1842

MARION DE SPAIN 6 March 1842

I do further state that in addition to the bible record I am known to the birth of both on the date thereof, by hearing Mother speak of it quite (sic) often and therefore do state that the Bible record made so many years past is absolutely true and correct as to the date of birth of the Twin DeSpain.

BELLE BARRETT

Siloam Springs, Ark. 9 Apr. 1912 - J. L. Davenport, Washington, D. C. Dear - As this affidavit is for George W. DeSpain if Marion DeSpain should need any proof in regard to his age I suppose this affidavit will do for both as they are twin brothers, one of them belonged to the Ill. Troops and the other belonged to M. S. M. Yours truly

George W. DeSpain

13 June 1917 - Dept. of the Interior - Bureau of Pensions - requesting additional military history, etc. Cft. No. 786922 George W. Despain, Corpl. A, 99 Ills. Inf.

18 June 1917 - War Dept. - George W. Despain, Co. F. & A. 99 Reg't Ill. Inf. age 20; 5'6"; light complexion; blue eyes; light hair; occupation farmer. Military records furnish nothing added to statement herewith returned. No record found of any absences without authority, arrests or confinements. Also found as George Despain. No medical record found.

Quincy, Adams County, Illinois - 3 May 1921 - GEORGE W. DE SPAIN, declares that he is 78 years of age, a resident of Co. 12 S&S Home (Soldiers and Sailors Home) Adams County, Illinois, he is identical person who was enrolled at Perry, Illinois, under the name of George W. DeSpain on the 6 day of August 1862 as a Corporal in Co. F 99 Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. in the Civil War, honorably discharged in Baton Rouge, La. on the 31 July 1865 - transferred to Co. A, 99 Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf.

Height 5 feet 6 inches; light complexion; blue eyes; light hair; a farmer; born 6 Mar. 1842 at Calhoun County, Illinois.

Very badly afflicted with Eplepsey, falls, has a broken hip from falling in one of those fits - has bad heart; is very deaf the whole right limb is affected.

Has lived in Christian County most of the time - occupation: common labor. 786922.

M. A. Rose and Joseph Wordle.

20 May 1921 - Bureau of Pensions - George W. Despain - please answer - Birth - 6 March 1841 - Calhoun County, Ill. Co. A 99 Ill. Infantry.

Enlistment - Perry Pike Co., Ill.

Wife - ADELLA DE SPAIN nee HALL

Marriage - at Decatur, Ill. 1873. Justice of the Peace in Court House forgot the name.

Official record - at Court House in Decatur, Ill.

Previous marriage - There was no former marriage by either one.

Living with wife - Wife is Dead

Children - Ida Alberta Despain; Celia May Despain, dead; Eva Despain, dead; Blanch E. Despain; Grover C. Despain. Does not remember dates of birth or death. 26 May 1921 - GEORGE W. DESPAIN.

26 May 1921 - S & S Home, Quincy, Ills. - In the matter of GEORGE W. DE SPAIN Co. A 99 Ill. Inf. Said claimant had one son in the late World War - name Grover C. DeSpain. He was never called to duty - was in camp in New Jersey when the armistice was signed.

George W. DeSpain

25 Feb. 1922 - Bureau of Pensions - Dr. Pearce: George W. Despain I. C. 786923 - If claimant requires aid and attendance of another person, etc. - Quincy, Ill. 3 Mar. 1922 - I have previously sent word to Ill. Sold. & Sail. Home to have applicant come to my office. I again called them by telephone yesterday and am told that George W. Despain is dead. Dr. Pearce

1 Dec. 1965 - Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home - Quincy, Illinois - Dear Mr. Whitaker - We are enclosing a photo copy of the application - We have no other records other than he died in our hospital 1 Oct. 1921, and was buried in our institution cemetery. James A. Schapers

Headquarters - Ill. S. & S. Home - Quincy, Illinois - 3 Nov. 1915 - George W. Despain, Perry, Pike Co., Illinois, a soldier of the War of the Rebellion. . .

Now 73 years old, 5'6"; fair complexion; blue eyes; and gray hair; he was born in Calhoun Co., State of Ill., 6 March 1842.

He enrolled in Perry, Ill., 6 Aug. 1862, and discharged in Baton Rouge, La., 11 July 1865, a corp. Co. A & F 99 Reg't Ill. Inf. and was discharged at the exp. of Serv.

Pension No. 786,922, a pension of 25 dollars a month payable on the 4th day of next Jan. No property does he own, a laborer, no means for self-support. No wife, three children living; ages 30-37, P. O. is Quincy, RR station is Quincy on the C. B. & Q RR in Adams Co.

Desires that the following be notified: Mrs. Blanch Tyler of Galesburg, Knox Co., Ill. - personal effects to his daughter Mrs. Blanch Tyler of Galesburg, Knox, Ill.

He has not applied to or a member of any Soldier's Home.

He is disabled by age and dislocation of right knee and deafness.

Also notify Mrs. A. C. SHARP??(Schoop??) daughter, 1509 E. Williams St., Decatur, Ill. (Or possibly Denton, Ill. ??)

6 Aug. 1862 - Florence, Illinois - George W. Despain, Corp. Co. F. 99 Inf. Reg. Ill. Vol. age 20; 5'6"; light hair; blue eyes; light complexion; single; farmer; Calhoun, Ill. enrolled in Perry, Illinois, mustered in at 23 Aug. Florence, Ill. residence: Griggsville, Pike Co., Ill. Transferred to Co. "A" as consolidated.

HISTORY OF THE NINETY-NINTH INFANTRY



George DeSpain in middle age. Made from a button size photograph by W. A. Barrett.

GENERAL: Since the annual report of 1863, the 2d Regiment, Missouri State Militia, Cavalry, has been on duty in Southeast Missouri, with headquarters at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The regiment has served by detachments, being stationed at different points in the 2d and 3d sub-districts of St. Louis District, and have been constantly on the march scouting in the southeastern counties of Missouri and northeastern Arkansas, making frequent scouts to Pechabontas and other points in Arkansas. The regiment has been in no general engagement, but many running fights and skirmishes, being ambushed and ambushing the enemy. It has kept up a guerrilla warfare, sometimes serving on foot for more secrecy in movements and certainty of success. They have killed a large number of guerrillas and taken many prisoners. On one scout to Arkansas, in August, 1864, a detachment of the regiment killed forty rebels and took fifty prisoners, and captured fifty-two horses and mules. In September, a detachment of the regiment, about two hundred strong, made a scout into Dunklin county, and attacked a rebel force three hundred and ten strong, under command of Colonel Clarke, C. S. A., killing twenty-three and capturing ten prisoners and twenty horses. In October, a detachment of companies B and F pursued and attacked a party of rebels under Lieutenant Colonel Birthright, C. S. A., numbering sixty, killing eighteen and scattering the remainder in the swamps of New Madrid county, with no casualty on our side. Company I was stationed at Charleston, Missouri, until September, 1864, from which station they kept the guerrillas out of Mississippi and Scott counties, killing many. The regiment has sustained but few casualties, owing, in a great measure, to the dash and impetuosity with which they throw themselves against the enemy wherever found.

Companies A and M were stationed at Bloomfield, Missouri, until September, where they did good service in keeping the counties of Stoddard and Dunklin clear of guerrillas, until they were forced to evacuate the post before the advance of Price's army. They were attacked on their retreat by Colonel Jeffries' command, C. S. A., and forced to destroy and abandon their transportation and baggage. This retreat was commanded by Captain Lewis Sells, of Company K, who, with his company, had been sent to reinforce the post of Bloomfield.

Company L participated in the defense of Pilot Knob, in September. Half of the company, with the two lieutenants, being out with Major Wilson, 3d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, skirmishing on the side of Pilot Knob, were cut off from the fort, and had to fall back. They joined General A. J. Smith's command at Franklin, Missouri, and continued with the cavalry under General Pleasanton's command, during Price's raid. Captain Wright, with the remainder of the company, bore a gallant part in the defense of Fort Davidson, of which honorable mention was made by the general commanding. They participated in the retreat from Pilot Knob and the defense of Harrison's Station. On reaching Rolla, Missouri, they were retained at that post. After the enemy left the State, the company met at St. Louis. The discipline of the regiment is excellent, considering the demoralizing effect on cavalry of serving by small detachments and conducting a guerrilla warfare, which cannot be done by rule or method, but by a knowledge of the country and the nature of the men they have to contend with. The regiment is much reduced by reenlistments in the veteran service, two hundred and thirteen having been transferred to the 13th and 14th Missouri Cavalry, veteran volunteers, and the 19th United States Infantry.

January 1, 1864, the aggregate of the regiment was nine hundred and fifty-two; at the present time it is six hundred and sixty.

JOHN B. ROGERS, Colonel Commanding.

During the present year, (1865) until mustered out, the regiment was stationed in the St. Louis District, headquarters at Cape Girardeau, and was engaged in guard and escort duty and hunting down guerrillas.



Mr. Wilford W. Whitaker, Jr.,
1114 - 6th Street
Prosser, Washington

Keosauqua, Iowa
RR 2 Box 179

Dear Sir

Some time ago I received a letter from your office regarding the Despain Log Chain. I am sorry that I have mis-placed it, but I just received a letter from my 2nd cousin W. A. Barrett, of Painted Post New York and the enclosures he sent are very interesting.

I am sorry that my information is, at present, very scant as I have been unable to travel around and dig as I would like to, I am retired after 30 years in the Military Service and am living in the old homestead. (In Bentonsport, Iowa. Not Bonaparte).

I am the only son of FRANCIS MARION BARRETT and ROSE-BELL, Nees DESPAIN and was born here in Bentonsport, Iowa. in 1899 ?. No records at County Court House. My Father was born here in 1868, His Father was WILLIAM F. BARRETT and mother was MARGARET JANE (DeSPAIN) BARRETT, they were married in 1856 in Illinois.

To this union were 4 girls and 1 son (all have gone to their reward and rest above.) My mother died on March 8, 1918 at Deadwood, S. D. and my father in Livermore, Calif. in 1936-37, Have lost record.

My Maternal Grandfather was MARION DeSPAIN and to this family there 3 boys and 2 girls (to my knowledge) My only living Aunt, Mrs. J. L. Mathis is living in Santa Rosa, California, and I believe that she can give you the history of the Missouri and Arkansas DeSpains. Her name is Kitley J. Mother's sister.

There is a cousin living in Siloam Springs, Ark., Mrs. Ted Perrine and she and her husband run the New Paper there and Anna has the family Bible. I think she could aid you a great deal. I am the only one of my family still living, and, as I am a recuperating Coronary Case I do not get out very often.

My Paternal Grand-mother had 2 brothers (to the best of my memory) Marion and George. So in one way W. A. Barrett is connected with the DeSpain Grandfather Marion and his Brother George used to fight the C. War all over when they visited, as one was with the C. S. A. and the other with the G. A. I.

Some time during the winter I shall look up what I can find and if I have duplicate pictures shall send them with information. There are in this area Sam Whitaker, Hillsboro, Ia. 3 Billingsley's, Cousin Anna's mother was Billingsley., A Wm. Whitaker, RFD, Stockport, Ia.

Am very sorry that I cannot give more information at present.

Sincerely,

P. S. By the way I was christened. Roger William Maxwell DeSpain Barrett. but I only use R. M. B.

My cousin - W. A. Barrett has the "Tin Types" of my Grand-mother Barretts Brother also a small "Tin Type" of my Father.

ROGER MAXWELL BARRETT: Son of FRANCIS MARION BARRETT and ROSE BELL (DeSpain) BARRETT. Born 1 April 1899, in Bentonsport, VanBuren County, Iowa. (The first Csearian Birth in Iowa where both the Mother and baby survived. Recorded in the A. M. A. Journal 1903 by Dr. Thomas Maxwell, of Keokuk, Ia.,) (The only record I have of my birth, as the Court House did not keep records in those days in this county or were destroyed by fire.)

In 1903 we went to Vernal, Utah and from there to Deadwood, So. Dak. where I went through the grade school until the 17 April 1917 when I enlisted in Company H, 4th Inf. S. D. N. G. was discharged in August 1917 and reenlisted in the U. S. Regular Army on the 3 October 1917.

Took recruit training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, then was transferred to the Med. Off. Training School (Equitation Group) at Fort Oglethourpe, Ga. in April 1918 was transferred to U. S. Gen. Hosp #18 at Waynesville, N. C. then after the Armistice was transferred to U. S. Gen. Hosp. #9 at Otisville, N. Y. Upon discharge returned to Deadwood, S. D. but reenlisted in the General Service Infantry and was at Jefferson Barracks St. Louis Missouri, until reduction of the Army 15 July 1921.

: On October 17, 1921 enlisted in the Hospital Corps, U. S. navy for four years, received training at Goat Hill, San Francisco, Calif., Was stationed at Mare Island Naval Hospital then to U. S. naval Transport Service between Manila, P. I. and San Francisco for about two years then was transferred to the Naval Dental School, Washington, D. C. Graduated as Dental Technican and was assigned to the Naval Operating Base, Hampton Roads, Norfolk, Virginia, until discharge 16 October 1925.

Reenlisted in the Med. Dept, U. S. Army 17 October 1925 at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C., was transferred to Sternberg General Hospital, Manila, P. I., Nov. 1928. We were shipwrecked. Ran aground in Maquenga and had to spend 4 weeks at Camp Clayton, Balboa, Panama. Returned to the States October 1931. Stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. until discharged E. T. S. Reenlisted at Station Hospital, Fortress Monroe, Va., Oct. 20, 1931, was on duty there until purchased discharge on August 11, 1938.

Returned to Bentonsport, Iowa, 12 August 1938, don't know why unless I wanted to see some one of the relatives. Re-enlisted 5 May 1941, was assigned to Hqrs. Co. 5th Med. Bn. Fort Custer, Mich. on Sept. 16, 1941, was assigned to the Med. Dept. Section Hqrs. of Task Force 4, A. P. O. 890 N. Y which turned out to be Iceland. Was transferred to 208th Gen. Hosp. same station. Was discharged and went on active duty as 1st Lt. Med. Adm. C. as Assistant Adjutant. We were transferred to England prior to the invasion and I was returned to the States as a patient in March 1944, having served 30 months overseas.

Upon return to active duty was assinged to Percy Jones Gen. & Conval. Hosp. Battle Creek, Mich., until relieved of active duty July 12, 1945.

Re-enlisted as Staff Sgt. Med. Dept. U. S. Army 11 July 1946. Applied for

retirement same date and was placed on retirement 31 October 1946. Received full retirement credit 2 February 1952.

As to family history, I can add very little. Mother was sick for years after my birth and passed away March 8, 1918, and father was working in the west and died in Livermore, California in 1936 or 37. As I was in the service most of the time, there was little contact with relatives except at Christmas time, so can add very little.

I was married April 8, 1944, to Miss. Lillie M. McGowan of Oak Park, Ill. after which we purchased a home in Our Old Home and are now living in retirement.

I can't say that I have had a very eventful life but it has been more like a world tour, some of which I enjoyed.

Some information has come up (but not verified as yet) that both our Grandparents and my mother's folks (DeSpains and Barretts were related to President A. Lincoln. Did not incorporate in my story as I want it verified before doing so - but from word of mouth stories from mother's relatives I some what believe it. Shall let you know when positive.

/s/ Roger



Roger & Lillie McDowell Barrett. 20 Mar 1958.



Francis Elizabeth (Barrett) Frye. Born 22 Aug.
1861 in Springfield, Ill. Her wedding picture.



Left: Vivian Hamilton, Wanda Oldson (her dau.)
Glenna Nye (granddaughter), Wanda Jo Nye.

My Grandmother JANE BARRETT (nee DESPAIN) had two brothers George & Marion. They were twins and one fought in the C. S. A. and the other in the G. A. R. Our Aunt Kitty Mathis sent me a picture of her Aunt's brother George and you already have Uncle Marion's. (Taken from tintype I sent you) picture. Also have received another tin type of my Dad. Don't know what connection we have to Oliver Barrett but there must have been some. I met him in Chicago but never got back to visit with him again.

WILLIAM HARVEY FRYE - born December 9, 1853, Cincinnati, Ohio. Went to Harvard University. Got his law degree in 1876.

FRANCIS ELIZABETH BARRETT - born August 22, 1861, Springfield, Ohio.

They were married in Chicago, Ill. in 1878, and went to Deadwood, S. D. Lived in Deadwood until 1897.

Wendell Harvey Fry was born Dec. 29, 1886, in Deadwood, S. D. Died March 3, 1891, and is buried in Deadwood's famous cemetery where Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane are buried.

William Edwin Frye - born Feb. 28, 1893, in Hot Springs, S. D. Died June 23, 1958, in Stockton, California.

Vivian Irene Frye - born June 3, 1898, in Breckenridge, Colo.

My father was one of the first Circuit Judges in Colo., also railroad attorney for the Denver and Rio Grande.

They lived in Colo. until 1900 then moved to Vernal, Utah. Two years later they moved to Price, Utah, where my father was county attorney and later Judge.

Mother died in Hanford, California, March 1, 1910, where she is buried.

My father never remarried and we moved from Price, Utah, to Auburn, Calif. in 1915.

My brother Edwin went to college in Denver to be a civil engineer. He worked for the Navy until he passed away.



Owl. Vignette from Thomas Bewick's
"History of British Birds," Newcastle, 1797-1804
Lewis Collection
The Free Library of Philadelphia

oldest son, John Pershing Taylor, was born Nov. 20, 1918, at the Letterman General Hospital. He was the first boy born there after the Armistice was signed.

We moved to Los Angeles in 1921. Glen Edwin Taylor was born Feb. 28, 1923.

Wanda Ann Taylor was born Sept. 1, 1924.

John Pershing Taylor married (1) Essie Bell Price - has seven children. They are all married but two. There are five grandchildren. He is divorced from his first wife and remarried, has 1 son.

Glen Edwin Taylor married Clarice Stambaugh. They have two children, a girl and a boy. The boy is married and has one girl.

Wanda Ann Taylor married William Oldson. They have three children - two girls and one boy. One girl and the boy are married. The girl has two girls and the boy one girl.

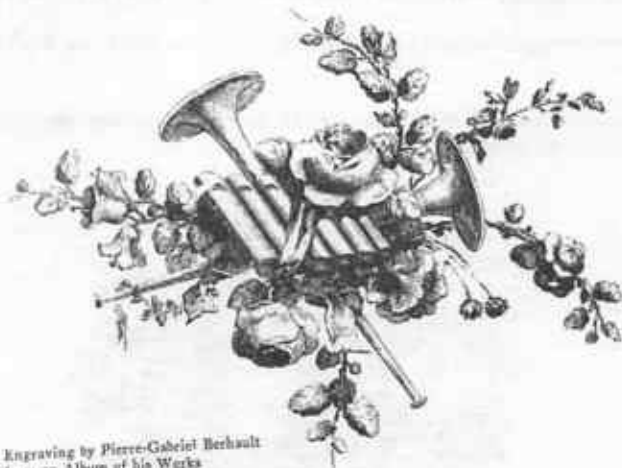
I have 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

My first husband - Glenwood Taylor died April 28, 1954.

My second husband - Archie Fourtine died July 9, 1958.

I have been married five years to my present husband.

I am sending you a picture of my mother in her wedding dress. It was made from a tin type I had of her. She was 17 years old.



Engraving by Pierre-Gabriel Berthault
from an Album of his Works
Paris, about 1750
The Free Library of Philadelphia

HISTORY OF NINETY-NINTH INFANTRY.

The Ninety-ninth Infantry was organized in Pike county in August, 1862, by Colonel George W. K. Bailey of Pittsfield, and was mustered in at Florence, Pike county, August 23 by Captain J. H. Rathbone; on same day moved to St. Louis, Mo., and went into Benton Barracks on the 24th, where it received its equipments, being the first Regiment out of the State under the call of 1862.

September 8, was sent to Rolla, Mo., thence, September 17, to Salem, Dent county, thence, November 20, to Houston, Texas county. Was assigned to the Brigade of Brigadier General Fitz Henry Warren. Was engaged in a skirmish at Bear Creek, losing 1 killed, 4 wounded and 1 taken prisoner, and in the battle of Hartsville lost 85 killed and wounded.

January 27, 1863, moved to West Plains, Howell county, reporting to Brigadier General Davidson.

March 2, moved to Pilot Knob, thence to St. Genevieve.

March 15, embarked for Milliken's Bend, La.; was assigned to General Benton's Brigade, General E. H. Carr's Division, General McClelland's Thirteenth Army Corps. *92, 83, 124*. Left Milliken's Bend April 11, arrived at New Carthage 12th. Marched down Roundway Bayou in Louisiana, passed Vicksburg and Grand Gulf. Crossed the river April 30 and after marching all night met the enemy at Magnolia Hills, near Fort Gibson, Miss.; lost 37 killed and wounded.

Marched with General Grant's army toward Jackson, Miss.; was held in reserve at the battle of Champion Hills (the hardest one-day battle fought in the west.) Started into the engagement at nightfall, pursued the retreating rebels to Edwards Station and engaged them the next morning; charged upon their works at Black River and drove them across the river, capturing many prisoners. Our loss was light.

On 19th of May was at the defences of Vicksburg. On the 22d the Regiment took a prominent part in the assault, losing out of 300 men, 103 killed and wounded. The Colonel and Major were wounded early in the day, leaving Captain A. C. Mathews in command. Its line, during the day, was close to the enemy's works, and its colors planted on their breastworks. This position was held by the Ninety-ninth until 4 o'clock p. m., when it was relieved by another regiment, and moved back 150 yards to where its knapsacks had been left. While calling roll the line which had relieved the Regiment was driven back in great confusion. The Ninety-ninth advanced, and opening a heavy fire, drove the enemy back into his works and held him there, probably saving the whole Division from stampede.

Was engaged during the siege in General Benton's Brigade—Eighth and Eighteenth Indiana, and Thirty-third and Ninety-ninth Illinois. The Ninety-ninth lost during the entire campaign and siege, 253 killed, wounded and missing.

On July 5 the Ninth, Thirteenth and Fifteenth Army Corps, Major General Sherman commanding, moved after Johnson's army to Jackson. Returned to Vicksburg July 24. On 21st of August moved to New Orleans, and on 26th went into camp at Brashear City.

October 2, 1863, the Campaign of the Tescbe was commenced. The Regiment was in several skirmishes, and a detachment of the Regiment, Captain A. C. Mathews commanding, was engaged in the battle of Grand Coteau. On 9th November, returned to Brashear City, and moved to New Orleans.

In the assault at Vicksburg May 22, the color bearer, the gallant young hero William Sitton, was wounded, when the invincible Tom Higgins grasped the stars and stripes, and carried them into the breastworks, where he was captured, and lost the stand of colors. In 1873 the colors were sent from Richmond, Va., to Philadelphia, Pa., thence to Springfield Ill., where they now are. Stains of blood can yet be seen on them, the patriot blood of the lamented Sitton.

NINETY-NINTH INFANTRY.

November 16, embarked for Texas. On 25th, landed at Mustang Island, and, marching up to Matagorda Island, commenced the attack on Fort Esperanza, which was soon surrendered. The Ninety-ninth remained in Texas during the spring of 1864.

On 16th of June, 1864, it evacuated the Island, and reported to General Reynolds, at Algiers, La. The Regiment performed garrison duty on the Mississippi during the entire summer. In First Brigade, Brigadier General Slack; First Division, General Dennis; Nineteenth Corps, General Reynolds. The Ninety-ninth was brigaded with Twenty-first Iowa, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin and Forty-seventh Indiana.

In November, 1864, moved to Memphis. Here the Regiment was consolidated into a Battalion of five companies, and Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Mathews assigned to command, Colonel Bailey, and the other supernumerary officers, being mustered out.

Moved to Germantown, and went on duty guarding railroad. On December 25, three men of the Battalion were captured and murdered by guerrillas. Moved to Memphis, December 28. On January 1, 1865, embarked for New Orleans, and arrived on the 9th. On 1st February, embarked for Dauphine Island, Ala. Was assigned to First Brigade, First Division, Thirteenth Corps, with Twenty-first Iowa, Forty-seventh Indiana and Twenty-ninth Wisconsin—General Slack commanding Brigade, Brigadier General Veatch commanding Division.

On March 17th moved to Fort Morgan, and, on 26th, arrived at Fish River. Took part in the siege of Spanish Fort, until the 30th, when the Division was sent to General Steele's Army, and, April 1, went into position at Fort Blakely. The Ninety-ninth assisted in its investment and capture, and, on the 12th, entered Mobile.

In June, 1865, the Division was ordered to Red River, to receive the surrender of Kirby Smith, and it proceeded to Shreveport, La. From this place Colonel Mathews was detailed to proceed, with a body-guard of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, to the Indian Territory, and receive the surrender of Brigadier Generals Cooper and Standwaite, and to form temporary treaties of peace with the Indian tribes. The Colonel formed treaties with ten tribes—including the Choctaws, Cherokees, Chickasaws and Osages—and returned (having traveled a thousand miles) on the 3d of July.

On 19th July, ordered to Baton Rouge. On 31st of July, mustered out by Captain E. S. Hawk, A. C. M.

Arrived at Springfield, Ill., August 6, 1865, and received final payment and discharge August 9, 1865, and by midnight of same day the surviving veterans were in their own county.

The Ninety-ninth had three years of active service and were in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama.

The Ninety-ninth was often honored by having important staff positions given to its line officers. Captain, afterward Colonel Mathews, was on staff duty with different Generals, also Lieutenants Sever, Bowman and Kinne. Captain Massie was A. A. Q. M. and A. A. C. S. and was A. A. A. General in the battles at Spanish Fort and Blakely. No particular distinction is claimed for the officers named, but this mention is due them and the Regiment, as the position came to them unsought, and the survivors of the old Regiment take just pride in remembering the gallant and famous commanders with whom they served, namely, Grant, Sherman, Granger, Steele, Reynolds, Canby, Carr, McGinnis, Veatch Slack, Lawler, Washburn and Schenck.

Shortly after their discharge the survivors, their wives and sweethearts, were given a grand dinner by the citizens of Pittsfield, where 3 years before over 900 men had marched out to do and die for their country. At the banquet less than 350 partook of the feast.

The Ninety-ninth was in the following battles and skirmishes: Beaver Creek, Mo., Hartsville, Mo., Magnolia Hills, Miss., Raymond, Miss., Champion Hills, Miss., Black River, Miss., Vicksburg, Miss., Jackson, Miss., Fort Esperanza, Tex., Gr Coteau, La., Fish River, Ala., Spanish Fort, Ala., and Blakely, Ala.

No. of days under fire	62
No. of miles traveled	5,900
No. of men killed in battle	38
No. of men died of wounds and disease	149
No. of men discharged for disability	127
No. of men deserted	35
No. of officers killed in battle	3
No. of officers died	2
No. of officers resigned	28

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA.

HEADQUARTERS 2D CAVALRY, MISSOURI STATE MILITIA,
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI, December 22, 1863.

General John B. Gray, Adjutant General State of Missouri :

In answer to your inquiry, I have the honor to state that the 2d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, was organized by the consolidation of the original 2d and 11th Cavalry, Missouri State Militia. Of the history of the original 2d I know but little previous to the consolidation, not having served with them, and no record having been left in this office by my predecessor. The original 11th was enlisted in Northeast Missouri early in 1862, and was formed into a regiment about the 15th of June, 1862. Immediately after they took the field against the rebel forces in Northeast Missouri, in the pursuit of the forces of Porter, McCullough and others; they marched almost constantly. About the 1st July, 1862, the 2d Battalion of the 11th, of which I had the command, engaged the force of Porter at Cherry Grove, Schuyler county, Missouri, killing and wounding a large number, taking many prisoners, horses, arms, and completely routing him. The pursuit of this force was unremitting until the 2d Battalion again brought his regiment to battle on the 18th July, 1862, and after a severe and bloody contest of about two hours duration, in which both forces lost heavily, again succeeded in routing him, and compelling him to leave his dead and wounded, and those of Merrill's Horse, which he then held, having repulsed part of that regiment in an attack made by Merrill's Horse on the same day and on the same ground; one-half of the battalion engaged under my command were either killed or wounded. Several minor affairs occurred in which the 11th were uniformly victorious, extending up to the time Porter, with three thousand two hundred men, was brought to battle at Kirksville, Missouri, on the 6th of August, after a long and rapid pursuit; this action was decisive, the slaughter of the rebel force was fatal to them, and nearly all were captured, killed and dispersed; the 11th then held various points in the northeast of Missouri, and scouting parties were constantly in pursuit of the rebel bands then infesting that portion of the State, frequently routing and dispersing them. On the 1st of October, 1862, they were consolidated with the original 2d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, forming the 2d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, under Colonel John McNeil; on the 6th day of January, 1863, the regiment marched from Palmyra, Missouri, over bad roads, in dead of winter, to Southeast Missouri, and took post at Bloomfield, Missouri, on the 21st of April, 1863; the advance of a large force of rebels, under Marmaduke, surprised an outpost at Chalk Bluffs, consisting of Company H, 2d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, and captured about half of that company and all their horses, arms and camp and garrison equipage. After this disaster, Marmaduke's advance compelled the abandonment of the post of Bloomfield, and the regiment fell back to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, which post was attacked by Marmaduke's whole force on the 26th of April; he was repulsed with severe loss. In this repulse and in the pursuit of his beaten force the 2d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, bore a conspicuous part. Since that time the regiment has been employed in scouting Southeast Missouri, and guarding the border of the State from invasion.

In one of which expeditions they captured the notorious rebel General Thompson and his staff and force.

They have nearly exterminated the guerrilla bands infesting Southeast Missouri.

On the first of the present month a detachment of the 2d Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, compelled an invading force five hundred strong, under the command of Major Crandall, to retreat from the State in disorder.

They now are guarding the border; few regiments have marched as much, or protected a larger extent of our State from depredations, or have done more towards punishing the disturbers of the public peace and protecting loyal citizens.

The aggregate strength of the regiment at this time is nine hundred and seventy-five, the condition and discipline of the soldiers are excellent, and they are ready to follow their standard where it may be sent.

I am, General, very respectfully,

J. B. ROGERS. *Colonel Commanding.*

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