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Civil War Notes Found in Old Bible

Interesting Statistics Recently Found in the Bible of the Late Rev. Samuel Denny

Contributed by C. LaVonne Duling, 6340 32nd. Ave., Shellsburg, IA 52332

Mrs. Henry (Maggie Denny) Duling of Hartsville, Indiana, sends an interesting paper written by her father, the late Samuel Denny. Mrs. Duling now has the Bible, Rev. Denny carried through the Civil War. In it he had marked the texts from which he had preached during his years in the ministry. Recently it was found that two leaves of this Bible had been pasted together. On opening these pages the paper referred to above was found. It contains interesting notations about Indiana's part in the War of the Rebellion.

"Indiana furnished 136 Infantry regiments, 1 Artillery and 2130 for the Navy which makes a total of 210,497 during the war of the Rebellion; 74 per cent of military age enlisted. One out of every six of our population enlisted for 3 years. Of the total enlistment 16 percent lost their lives during the war. Indiana lost from all causes 24,416. The 14th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 31st, 59th, 67th, 71st, 82nd, 97th, 135th, and 149th, all had representatives in them from old Owen County and quite a number from Greene County.

"It is interesting to know where all these regiments furnished by Indiana were during the war. First I will say 3 took part in the 1st battle of the war; I in view of the Rio Grande took part in the last battle which occurred May 13, 1865.

"The first regiment under General Butler to land at New Orleans was the 21st Indiana. The first flag over the bloody parapet at Fort Wagner in front of Charleston was that of the 18th Indiana. The first to show 'The Stars and Stripes' at Mission Ridge was the 79th and 86th Indiana. Two of our regiments helped storm Fort McAllister down by Savannah. Another was among the first in the assaulting line at Fort Fisher. Another was converted into engineers that built all of General Sherman's bridges from Chattanooga to Atlanta and from Atlanta to the sea and from the sea northward.

"Five Indiana regiments were engaged in the Salvation of Washington at Antietam. Five were with Burnside's at Fredricksburg, 5 were at Chancellorsville where Stonewall Jackson took victory out of Hooker's hands and carried it with him to his grave.

"Six Indiana regts. were almost annihilated at Gettysburg; our old 14th was among them and Captain Beem had the honor of commanding one company of that regiment. Four were with Sherman when he swept the Shenandoah Valley. At Shiloh, Indiana had 13 regts. At Vicksburg she had 24, at Stone River 25, at Chickamauga 27, at Mission Ridge 20. In Sherman's march from Chattanooga to Atlanta he had 50 Indiana regts. At Atlanta he divided them so that 25 went with him to the Sea and 25 went back with General Thomas and took part in the annihilation of Hood's army at Nashville. The reason some regiments had a wider distinction than others is because their opportunities were greater. They were all equally brave.

"Finally, when Grant superceded General Halleck and transferred his headquarters to the east and began his last grand march against Richmond, four Ind. Regts., soon joined by another, followed him faithfully, leaving their dead all along the way, in the Wilderness at Laurel Hill, at Spottsylvania at Po River, at North Ann River, at Bethsadia Church, at Cold Harbor and Clover Hill, and down to the halt in the war in which Lee delivered up the sword of the Rebellion."

Just when these notes were made or when sealed in the old Bible no one knows. Now they have come to light and they show a world of research on the part of Rev. Denny. Rev. Samuel Denny is my husband Jack L. Duling's Great Grandfather.

C. LaVonne Duling



Rev. Samuel Denny on left
Civil War photograph

Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

about some of Owen County's Civil War Soldiers

researched and submitted by Jill Rebman Martin, jmartin001@ameritech.net

Early settlers who moved from Kentucky to Owen and Monroe counties of Indiana in the 1820s included the Coffey, Mayfield, and Truax families whom I have investigated. Young men from these families volunteered to fight for the Union in the Civil War and many died. Sharing information about their service shows the role played in the war by some area families.

The Truax Family

The Truax soldiers were grandsons of Ailcey Combs (1763-1856) and William Truax (1762-1835).¹ Benjamin Truax (b. 1843) was the son of James Truax (1802-1835) and second wife Arleta Chambers (Treadway p.45). He enlisted in Company G, 38th Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. on Oct. 2, 1861. After being wounded Dec. 31, 1862 during the Battle of Stone River, he died Jan. 7, 1863. He was buried in the federal cemetery at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.²

A "cousin of Benjamin's fought with him in the 38th. Benjamin's uncle (and my great-great-grandfather) Samuel Truax (1798-1835) married Elizabeth Bolden (1803-c.1880). After his death, she married Jacob Rumble (1779-1853). Jacob's grandson, James T. Rumble, enlisted in Co. G, 38th ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. on September 18, 1861.³ More information about him is found in the *Roll of Honor* which states that James T. Rumble was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga, Tennessee Sept. 19, 1863 and buried there. His body was later moved to the federal cemetery at Chattanooga.⁴ His brother John W. Rumble, who survived the war, served in Co. G, 115th Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. He was buried at Riverside Cemetery, Owen County.⁵

Barton Wilson (b. 1844), the son of James Truax's sister Orpha Truax Wilson (1804-75) and her husband Thomas Wilson, served in Co. D, 70th Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. He married Sarah Farr in 1864 and died in 1870 (Treadway, p.102). He was buried in Gosport Cemetery.⁶

The Mayfield and Coffey Families

These Mayfield and Coffey Civil War soldiers were related by birth or marriage to brothers William (1793-1873) and Leroy (1791-1851) Mayfield.⁷ Leroy was a Baptist preacher with ties to churches in Owen as well as Monroe County.⁸

Leroy Mayfield's son Nicholas S. served as chairman of the Sanitary Commission in Monroe County.⁹ Sally Smith and Nicholas Mayfield's son, Leroy S. Mayfield (1841-1870), enlisted as a private and was mustered out as Captain of Co. I, 22nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt.¹⁰ He was wounded in the arm at the Battle of Chattanooga Nov. 25, 1863, and in the left hip at the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia July 27, 1864. After months of recuperation at home, he returned to Georgia in 1865 as a Captain,¹¹ but his health was poor. He taught school until he died in 1870.¹²

¹ Joyce Asher Treadway, *The Truax Family of Owen County, Indiana*. Topeka KS, 1989, p. ii. Unless otherwise noted, Truax family information comes from the excellent Treadway book; page numbers will be inserted in the text.

² *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, 1861-1864*, 9 vols., Indianapolis, IN, Samuel Douglas State Printer, 1866. V: 212 lists him as "Truat". *Roll of Honor*, U.S. Quartermaster Dept., Washington, DC, 1865-71, IX: 524, gives death date with no burial place. Treadway p.45 supplies the place of burial.

³ *Report*. V: 212

⁴ *Roll of Honor*. XIX: 523 and XI: 74.

⁵ *Report*, VII: 125; *Owen County Indiana Military Veterans 1775-1903*, OCHGS, n.d., p.13.

⁶ *Report*, VI: 125; *Owen County Military Veterans*, p.17.

⁷ Wade Horn. *Vernal-Mayfield Cemetery Index, 1821-1923*. Bloomington, IN, 1987, p.3.

⁸ See Terry Schooling, *The Minutes of the First Bethel Baptist Church of Indiana, 1822-1897.*, published 1997; and *History of Vernal Baptist Church*, DAR, Bloomington, IN, 1929.

⁹ *History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana*, B.F. Bowen & Co., Indianapolis, 1914, p.444. the Sanitary Commission (similar to the Red Cross) supplied food and clothing to sick and wounded soldiers. Sanitary Fairs, such as one in Bloomington in October 1863, raised money for supplies.

¹⁰ *Report*, IV: 514 and II: 217.

¹¹ "Muster Roll and Hospital Records for Leroy S. Mayfield, Co. I, 22nd Ind. Vol. Inf. Regt.," National Archives.

¹² *Vernal Cemetery Index*, p.3; and *1870 U.S. Census*, Monroe Co. IN, Richland Twp., roll 344, p.430.

Nicholas S. Mayfield (1816-1888) had a younger son, **Joseph Mayfield**, born in 1844. Against his older brother's wishes, he left Franklin College in March, 1864 to enlist in the 22nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. as a private. He died on Sept. 17, 1864, of wounds received at Jonesboro, Georgia Sept 1. The Mayfield Cemetery contains a grave marker for him.¹³

Rev. Leroy Mayfield's brother William married four times. His last three wives had connection by birth and/or marriage to the Coffey family.¹⁴ Like the Mayfields, Coffeys were active in the Indiana Baptist ministry. The Rev. Reuben Coffey (1785-1854) was a preacher at Bethel Baptist Church and founded the Baptist Franklin College, Indianapolis, Indiana.

William Mayfield's third wife was Jane Coffey (1811-June 24, 1855), daughter of John Coffey.¹⁵ Her first marriage was to her cousin Alfred Martin Coffey (c.1808-1841), son of the Rev. Reuben. One of their children, **Christopher Columbus Coffey**, a soldier with Co. I, 22nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt., died of disease in 1862.¹⁶

Another son of Jane Coffey and Alfred Martin Coffey, **James Martin Coffey**, enlisted in Co. I, 22nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. He died Dec. 18, 1861 of typhoid fever at Syracuse, MO. His wife, Margaret A., lived in Ellettsville where he was buried.¹⁷

Jane Coffey and second husband William Mayfield had three children. The oldest, **Jesse W. Mayfield** (1844-1921), was a private in Co. F, 82nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. He and his cousin Leroy S. Mayfield both fought at Murphreesboro, Tennessee. In his diary, Leroy mentions seeing Jesse there. Jesse was injured by gunshot wounds to the head and chest at Chickamauga, Tennessee September 1864.¹⁸ He survived and married Susan Whisenand on March 3, 1868.

William Mayfield's fourth wife was Margaret Smith Coffey.¹⁹ She and her first husband Cornelius Coffey (1812-1852), a son of Rev. Reuben Coffey, had four children. A son **Copernicus H. Coffey** re-enlisted with Co. I, 22nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. after three years' service. He died in June 1864 of wounds suffered at the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia.²⁰

The children of Cornelius and Margaret erected a family marker in the Mayfield Cemetery with the names Sarah, Susan, Copernicus and Theodore. Theodore followed the family tradition of the ministry. The 1870 census shows Susan and Sarah as teachers still living with William and Margaret.²¹

Remarks in the diary and letters of Leroy S. Mayfield bring an immediacy and poignancy to these sad statistics of the Civil War. The edited diary omits many personal remarks, but enough remain to indicate the closeness of Leroy and his relatives. I believe it is no accident that the diary ends on June 27, 1864, with news of 1st Sgt. C. H. Coffey's death and L. S. Mayfield's wound. Leroy no longer has the will to record the sad details of war although he returns as a Captain to lead his company at the end of the war.

Please turn to the next page for more about this family along with a request for further information.

¹³ *Report*, IX: 465; and *Roll of Honor*, XXI: 383, recount Joseph's death.

¹⁴ William's second wife was Deniza Coffey (1812-1842). Mayfield and Coffey families have long intermarried. John Coffey (1704-1775) married Jane Graves (c.1710-c.1775), a granddaughter of immigrant Robert Mayfield, according to Glenn W. Mayfield, *The Mayfields*, privately printed, 1997.

¹⁵ William Mayfield married Jane Coffey Dec. 18, 1852, in Owen Co. IN according to the Indiana State Library Marriage Index on the Internet: <www.statelib.lib.in.us/tango/marriage>

¹⁶ *Report*, IX: 465, Christopher C. Coffey enlisted on August 15, 1861. *Roll of Honor*, XX: 16, states C. C. Coffey died of disease at Farmington, Miss., July 30, 1862. No burial site is given. Federal occupation of nearby Corinth MS began May 30, 1862, ending in October.

¹⁷ *Report*, IV: 514; and Art Westmat, compiler, *Veteran's Records Enrollments, Monroe Co., Indiana, 1886.*, Monroe Co. Historical Society, Bloomington, IN, 1994, p.212.

¹⁸ Charles Blanchard, ed., *A History of Clay and Owen Counties, Indiana*, Chicago, 1884, p.660. John D. Barnhart, ed., "A Hoosier Invades the Confederacy: Letters and Diaries of Leroy S. Mayfield," *Indiana Magazine of History* (June, 1943), p.153, mentions seeing Jesse at Murfreesboro.

¹⁹ William Mayfield married Margaret Coffey Nov. 13, 1855. *Monroe County Marriage Records, 1818-1881*, Monroe County Historical Society, Bloomington, IN, 1995, p.81.

²⁰ *Report*, IX: 514, states that C. H. Coffey was muster in on Aug. 15, 1861. He re-enlisted and died after the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga. His cousin Leroy records his death on June 27, 1864 in "Hoosier Invades," p.190. *Roll of Honor*, XXIII: 62, states that Copernicus H. Coffey, Private, of Co. I, Ind. 22 Regt., died June 29, 1864, of wounds, no place listed.

²¹ 1870 U.S. Census. Monroe County, Indiana, roll 344, page 434.

SOME QUESTIONS

about some of Owen County's Civil War Soldiers

researched and submitted by Jill Rebman Martin, jmartin001@ameritech.net

While researching Owen County Civil War soldiers, I found several pieces of information which I could not completely document. I am listing these tempting bits of history in the hopes some reader can help tell the regiment or the ancestry of these soldiers.

According to Joyce Asher Treadway, two of William Truax's granddaughters married Civil War veterans.¹ The daughter of James Truax and Arlita Chambers, Elsie Truax (1850-1885) married William Henry Asher (1844-1931) in 1867. Asher fought 1861-1864. He lost an eye in battle (Treadway, p.84). The daughter of Cynthia "Sinthy" Truax Murphey and Benjamin Murphey, Marticia (1846-1927), married Thomas Lopossa who Treadway said was in Co. H., 29th Ind. Inf. Regt. (p.106). He was buried in New Little Mount Cemetery.² So far I have not been able to find their names in rosters of Indiana Civil War soldiers. (*The Report of the Adj. General of Indiana* is only partially indexed and soldiers of a single regiment are scattered within the nine volumes, so they may well by Indiana veterans.)

The roster for Co. G of the 38th In. Inf. Vol. Regt. contains the name Oliver N Coffey of Monroe Co., enlisted on sept. 18, 1861 and mustered out Sept. 17, 1864 as a Sergeant.³ I would like to know where he belongs in the complex Coffey family tree.

Similarly Alfred Coffey is listed as a musician in the 71st In. (also known as the 6th Cavalry).⁴ He enlisted at Spencer on Aug. 18, 1862 and was mustered out June 17, 1865.

Joseph H. Mayfield of Owen County was in the 149th Co. D from Feb., 1865 to Oct. 18, 1865. He enlisted from Washington Township and was buried at Riverside Cemetery.⁵ Another Mayfield serving from Owen County was George W. Mayfield, son of Isaac and Jane Wampler Mayfield. George W. enlisted from Spencer and joined Co. F., 71st Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt. on Aug. 18, 1862. He was mustered out June 17, 1865, as a wagoner.⁶ I would like to know more about these soldiers.

Leroy Mayfield's diary mentions James M. Whisenand as "... a good fellow, full of fun, as any fellow can be, and is 'a number one' soldier."⁷ He enlisted for 3 years at Harrodsburg, in Co. I, 22nd Ind. Inf. Vol. Regt., Aug. 15, 1861. James re-enlisted and was mustered out July 24, 1865 as a Corporal.⁸ Several Whisenands are recorded, but I have not located James M.

As a reference for others interested in tracing Owen County Civil War soldiers, I am listing the companies and regiments said by Blanchard to be largely filled with Owen County residents: 14th Regt., Co. D; 19th Regt., Co. I; 21st Regt., Co. B (also known as the 1st Heavy Artillery); 31st Regt., Co. B; 59th Regt., Co. A; 71st Regt., Co. F; 97th Regt., Co. B, Co. F, Co. H; 115th Regt., Co. G; and 149th Regt., Co. D.

These 11 companies totaled 1355 men. Of those, 216 died from wounds and disease. Blanchard also mentions Co. I, 22nd Regt.; Co. F, 27th Regt; and Co. I, 82nd Regt. as companies from Monroe County containing Owen County men.

¹ Joyce Asher Treadway, *The Truax Family of Owen County, Indiana*, Topeka, KS, 1989, pp. xvii, xxxvii.

² *Owen County Military Veterans 1775-1903*, OCHGS, n.d., p.10.

³ *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, 1861-1864*, 9 vols., Indianapolis, IN, Samuel Douglas State Printer, 1866, V: 211.

⁴ Charles Blanchard, ed., *A History of Clay and Owen Counties, Indiana*, Chicago, 1884; and *Report*, VI: 148.

⁵ *Report*, VII: 553; and *Owen County Indiana Military Veterans*, p.10.

⁶ *Report*, VI: 148.

⁷ John D. Barnhart, ed., "A Hoosier Invades the Confederacy: Letters and Diaries of Leroy S. Mayfield," *Indiana Magazine of History* (June, 1943), p.153.

⁸ *Report*, V: 212.

