

## Company A, 120<sup>th</sup> OVI

COMP, Joseph 13 Aug 1862

Private Comp was 20 when he entered service. No other information is given. October 8, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, 36th, Illinois Voluntary Infantry

Father: George COMP

Mother: Susanna ????

Birth: Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio, March 12, 1842

Marriage: Savilla Johnston

Death: Winterset IA, September 6, 1919

Cemetery: Winterset Cemetery, Madison Co IA

Cemetery photo is at [Find a Grave](#).

Pension Index: Joseph Comp was also in Company I of the 36th Illinois Infantry. His record indicates that he used alias Joseph Miller for his service part of the time at least. He applied for an invalid pension in Iowa in 1891 and his widow Savilla, applied for the widow's pension on 29 Sept 1919 in Iowa.

Pension Index: Joseph M MILLER is an alias for Joseph M COMP. Co I, 36th Illinois Inf. and A 120th OH. Invalid filed in Iowa in 1891. Widow, Savilla COMP, filed in Iowa in 1919 Sep 29 or 27.

1850 Census, Green Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 151, Family 153: George COMP, age 50 PA, farmer; [next page] Susan, age 30 PA; Ann, age 21 PA; twins Christian, age 18 PA, blacksmith; Henry, age 18 PA; David C., age 14 OH; Esther, age 11 OH; Joseph, age 7 OH; Sarah, age 5 OH.

1860 Census, Green Twp, Wayne Co OH, page 39: George CAMP, age 60 PA, farmer; Susanna, age 55 PA; Joseph, age 17 OH; Sarah, age 14 OH.

Contributed by Joe and Jane Comp

History of Madison County, Iowa Volume II, Dated 1915

Joseph Comp is a retired farmer now living in Winterset but is still the owner of valuable property which affords him a generous annual income. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, March 12, 1842, while his parents were from Pennsylvania and his grandparents were natives of Germany. Joseph Comp spent his boyhood days under the parental roof and attended the district schools. He left home at the age of 21 making his way to Mercer County, Illinois, where he had an older brother living. There he attended school for one winter, and he also worked at the carpenter's trade with his brother, being thus engaged until October, 1864 when, feeling that his duty to his country was paramount to all else, he enlisted as a member of Company I, Thirty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He was one of the troops recruited to fill out an old regiment and was honorably discharged in October, 1865, being mustered out at New Orleans. He participated in the Battle of Franklin on the 30th of November, 1864, that of Nashville on the 15th and 16th of December and in various skirmishes. He escaped without being wounded or taken prisoner and returned to his home with a creditable military record.

When the war was over Mr. Comp again made his way to Mercer County, Illinois, and once more worked with his brother at the carpenter's trade. Later he returned to Ohio, where he engaged in cultivating his father's farm until 1869. He then came to Madison County and purchased 80 acres of wild prairie land in Douglas Township. With his characteristic energy he began to develop and improve that property and continuously followed farming for more than 41 years. He paid \$15 per acre for his original purchase, later bought 60 acres for \$20 an acre and still later 160 acres at \$30 per acre.

He is today the owner of 300 acres worth \$150 per acre. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil, employing modern farming methods in the improvement of his place. He was thus engaged until 1910 when he turned the farm over to his sons, and retired from business life, took up his abode in Winterset where he now has leisure for the enjoyment of those things which are to him a matter of interest and recreation.

On the second of October, 1866, Mr. Comp was united in marriage in Wayne County, Ohio to Miss Savilla Johnston, a native of Wayne County, born November 13, 1843 and to them have been born six children; Ora, who died at the age of 18 years; George William, a resident farmer of Jackson Township; Walter J., who lives upon the home farm; Ira D., also a farmer of this county; Mabel, the wife of Samuel Hoeness, who carries on general farming in Jackson Township; Franklin W., who is also upon the home farm.

Mr. Comp belongs to Pitzer Post, No. 55, G.A.R., of Winterset and greatly enjoys meeting with his old army comrades and recounting the incidents of military life in the south. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church and their lives have been lived in accordance with its teachings. Mr. Comp has now passed the seventy-third milestone on life's journey and he deserves a rest which has come to him, for it is the

merited outcome and reward of persistent, earnest and honorable labor.

His Obituary:

Joseph M. Comp was born at Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio, March 12, 1842 and died at his home in Winterset, September 6, 1919, aged 77 years , 5 months, 24 days. When the war broke out, he was a strong young man of 22 and on October 8, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, 36th, Illinois Voluntary Infantry. Serving honorably until the close of the war, being discharged October 20, 1865. On October 2, 1866 he was united in marriage to Savilla Johnston, who as a faithful and loving wife came with him to Madison County, Iowa on April 9, 1869, settling the following year on the old homestead known as "Comp's Corner", where for 45 years they labored faithfully together until January 13, 1909, when they removed to their present home in Winterset to spend the remaining days of their lives. Mr. Comp was the father of six children, five of whom survived; George William, Walter W., Ira D., Frank W., and one daughter Mrs. S.G. Hoeness, all of this vicinity. One daughter, Ora I. preceded her father in death twenty-eight years ago. Forty-three years ago, he was converted and united with the West Star Methodist Episcopal church, being one of the early supports and stand-bys of that organization, taking an active part in Sunday School and church work, and remaining a faithful and constant member of the same until his death. Coming to Iowa at an early age he helped to build up the vicinity where he lived from the primitive stage to a place of home and happiness, enduring the hardships that went with pioneer life. Five weeks ago, he was stricken down from which he gradually sank day by day, and for some days and the end was hourly expected, yet through the whole time he was a patient and cheerful sufferer. The deceased was a member of the Pitzer Post and the Evening Star lodges and was held in high esteem by his fellow members. A kind and loving father, a true friend, a honorable, an upright citizen has passed from this life to the home beyond the skies eternal in the heavens.

120<sup>th</sup> OVI Research by Susie Holderfield  
2001-2015  
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