

Company A, 120th OVI

MONTGOMERY, William E. 12 Aug 1862

1st Sergeant William Montgomery was age 26 when he entered service. He was appointed from Sergeant 6 Mar 1863; captured 3 May 1864 near Snaggy Point on the Red River, Louisiana; mustered out 22 June 1865 at Camp Chase, Ohio.

Father: Jonathan MONTGOMERY

Mother: Mary EAGLE

Birth: 6 Mar 1836, Wooster, OH

Marriage: Martha Jane BLACK, Ashland Co OH, 30 Apr 1867

Death: 26 July 1915, Macon Co MO

Cemetery: Oakwood Cemetery, Macon, Macon Co MO

Relationship: Brother of Rudolph MONTGOMERY of Co A 120th OVI

I have made a page for him at [Find a Grave](#) and requested a cemetery photo. However, a volunteer was unable to find his grave after searching the whole cemetery.

Pension Index: William E MONTGOMERY, C 16th, D 114th and A 120th OH Inf. Widow, Martha J.

MONTGOMERY, filed in Missouri on 23 Aug 1915, Application 1052062, Certificate 800062. Invalid filed in Missouri, 31 Jan 1883 [or 1893], Application 471071, Certificate 312122. [Note: It says he was in Co. C of the 16th OVI and I do find him listed in that company as being a private, age 23 in 1861 which helps somewhat to clear up the age given on the 1880 census. He entered that company on 22 April 1861 for a term of 3 months and mustered out with the company on 18 Aug 1861. The 16th OVI were on duty guarding railroads in West Virginia and then saw some action in that state [Phillippi, Laurel Hill and Carrick's Ford] before returning to Ohio.]

1860 Census Plain Twp, Wayne County OH, page 271: Jonathan MONTGOMERY, age 52 PA, farmer; Mary E, age 52 PA; William E, age 23 OH, farm labor; Isaiah F, age 21 OH, farm labor; Sam'l E, age 19 OH, farm labor; Rudolph M, age 18 OH, farm labor [see above]; Henry A, age 15 OH, farm labor; Elliot H, age 12 OH; Edward R, age 9 OH; Leonidas, age 8 OH, Elizabeth EAGLE, age 21 OH. [Wayne County Probate record: Jonathan MONTGOMERY married Mary EAGLE on 24 Feb 1835 in Wayne County OH.]

[Phillippi took place on 3 June 1861.]

The National Tribune, 9 Aug 1883, page 7:

"The First Amputation of the War.

To the Editor National Tribune:

In your issue of July 12, Comrade T. F. S., of Churchville, VA., expressed a desire to hear from some one who was present at the fight at Phillipi [*now in West Virginia*] and who witnessed the first amputation of the war (or so said to be). Well, I was there—was a member of the Sixteenth Ohio (three months' men). We crossed the river at Bellaire, and proceeded at once to Grafton, VA., and, after a short stay, made a forced march to Phillipi. We made the most of it after night and oh! the rain, how it did come down. It was hard on men not accustomed to such exposure. At daylight we were quite near our destination. We had halted for a moment to arrange our toilet, when a shot—as we then supposed—from the enemy caused some of our limbs to become a little unsteady, but a prompt command to 'Unslung knapsacks! Forward, double-quick, march!' soon quieted our unstrung nerves and placed us in the town of Phillipi. But the rebels had slipped out, leaving their breakfast for us to eat. In looking around we found a man in a hayloft, with a wounded leg. He had been in the stable below when a ball from one of our guns passed through the stable, striking his leg, and he had crawled up a ladder into the hayloft, and I think, if my memory serves me right, that is where the amputation took place. He was a fine-looking young man. His name I did not learn. He had my sympathies, as he was the first wounded man I had seen. I afterwards became a little more hardened. He appeared to be out of humor, although we were treating him the best we could under the circumstances, and I have often thought of him and wondered what had been his fate. On looking around further we beheld a little band of brave women coming down the hill. They had fled the town for safety, and when all was quiet wished to return, and not having a suitable emblem of peace, one of the more thoughtful disrobed and used an undergarment for the much-desired flag of truce. Placing the garment on a pole, they marched into the town, fully assured that protection would be granted. Now, should this reach the eyes of that lady, she will please pardon me for speaking of the matter. It was quite laughable then, and might cause a smile now.

W. E. M., Co A, 120th O. V. I. Macon, Mo.

Married <1868> Member of LDS on Family Search: William E. MONTGOMERY who died in Macon Co MO, married Martha Jane BLACK in Ashland County, OH on 30 Apr 1867.

1870 Census, Macon city, Macon Co, MO, dwelling 182, Family 195: W E MONTGOMERY, age 33 OH, shoe and boot maker; Martha, age 26 OH; Henry A, age 23 OH, shoe and boot maker; S. F. BLACK, age 55 OH, no

occupation; Harriet, age 50 OH, no occupation.

1880 Census, Macon City, Macon county, Missouri, page 385: Wm E., age 40 IL, hay and corn merchant, father born MD, mother born OH; M. Jennie, wife, age 36 OH, father born PA, mother born OH.

Not on 1890 Veterans Schedule.

1900 Census, Rubey St, Macon City, Hudson Twp, Macon County, Missouri, page 124: William E MONTGOMERY, age 64 OH, born March 1836, married 30 yrs, a guardman? or guardner?, father born MD, mother born OH; Martha, wife, age 56 OH, born June 1843, married 30 yrs, no children listed, parents born OH. Also listed is mother, Harriette? BLACK, age 83 OH, born Mar 1817, parents born OH.

The National Tribune, 23 Dec 1909, page 8:

"The Ex-Prisoners. Editor National Tribune: It does seem to me that the time has now come when some definite and certain action should be taken by Congress to in some measure recompense the ex-Union prisoners for their sacrifices and sufferings. Ever since they returned, some 43 years ago, they have been at a disadvantage because of those trials and disabilities endured behind the enemy's stockades. The country was saved, the Flag was maintained and great prosperity has come to the land; but, as a rule, the ex-prisoners have had very little share in this. May we not justly appeal to Congress and a grateful people for some compensation to those who suffered all but death and have since borne patiently the trial of their faith and patriotism? Surely it is time they should be remembered. ___ W. E. Montgomery, Co. A, 120th Ohio, Macon, Mo."

1910 Census, E. Lincoln St, Macon City, Hudson Twp, Macon County, Missouri, page 59: William E MONTGOMERY, age 73 OH, own income, married 42 yrs, [UA marking indicates Union Army], father born MD, mother born OH; Jennie, wife, age 66 OH, married 42 yrs, no children, father born PA, mother born OH.

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La Plata Home Press

July 29, 1915
W. E. Montgomery

W. E. Montgomery, aged eighty, a long and well known resident of Macon, died at his home in Macon at 2:30 Monday morning. Mr. Montgomery became known a few years ago from one end of the country to the other because of his relation of a little war incident that occurred in the Virginia mountains. He and a few men were ordered to guard a narrow pass during the month of December, 1862. Living near the picket guard in a log cabin was a young woman and her two little girls. The father was away fighting for Bob Lee. The little girls spent much of the time with the Union soldiers. When Christmas came around, Mr. Montgomery rode over to Headquarters and made a requisition for a lot of blankets, provisions and dainties. Then he and his comrades played Santa Claus for the little girls of the Confederate soldier. The story was printed in several of the large papers and soon afterwards Mr. Montgomery received a letter from the granddaughter of the man whose little children the Union soldiers had befriended in winter time. Mr. Montgomery, whose life was characteristic of the little incident that occurred in the Virginia mountains, was always doing good for others. For many years past his wife had been an invalid and he cared for her as tenderly as though she was a child.

Missouri Death Record: State File # 25237, Wm E MONTGOMERY died at Macon city, Macon Co MO on 26 July 1915. Married. Born 6 Mar 1836 at Wooster, OH. Retired farmer. Father Jonathan MONTGOMERY, born MD. Mother Mary EAGLE, born OH. Burial Oakwood Cem. Informant H. A. MONTGOMERY of Macon, MO.

Wife's Missouri Death Record: State File # 22656, Martha J MONTGOMERY died 25? June 1917 at Macon city, Macon Co MO. Age 74 yrs, 9 mo, 26 dys. Widow. Born 26 Aug 1842 at Ashland Co OH. Parents Saml BLACK and Harriett GLADDIN, born OH. Burial Oakwood Cem. Infomant Howard MONTGOMERY of Macon MO.

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2015
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