

Company D, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credit: Brian Kneep at [Find a Grave](#)

ANDERSON, Alexander Not on original list.
Alexander ANDERSON, alias John S. FORTNEY.
See John S. FORTNEY in his pdf file.
Alexander ANDERSON, alias John S. FORTNEY.

Private Fortney [Alexander ANDERSON] was age 22 when he entered service. He was captured 3 May 1864 near Snaggy Point on the Red River, Louisiana; mustered out 7 July 1865 at Camp Chase, Ohio.

Father: William ANDERSON
Mother: Martha ?????
Birth: <1840>Lewistown, Mifflin, PA
Marriage: Annie E.GRO, 16 Aug 1862,
Lewistown, Mifflin Co PA

Death: 3 April 1900

Cemetery: First Methodist Cemetery, Lewistown, Mifflin Co PA

Information at [Find a Grave](#) says that the Alexander ANDERSON, is buried at First Methodist Cemetery, Lewistown, Mifflin Co PA. We think that the stone was misread. The date of death should be 1900 and the Regiment should be 120th OVI. As you can see, the stone is difficult to read.

Pension Card: Alexander ANDERSON alias John S. FORTNEY, Co D 120th OH Inf. Invalid filed 23 apr 1888, Application 651637, Certificate 481664, in PA. Widow Annie E. ANDERSON. Widow applied 13 Apr 1900, Application 717001, Certificate 517726, in PA.

Thanks to Bryan for straightening me out on the identity of this soldier.

Alexander enlisted under the name of John S. Fortney by reason of having a difficulty with a girl as stated in his pension records. Alexander ANDERSON possibly picked this Wayne County OH man's name because he [Alexander] was working in Wayne County when he joined the 120th.

1850 Census, Oliver Twp, Mifflin Co PA, Dwelling 17, Family 17: William ANDERSON, age 50 Ireland, laborer; Martha, age 33 PA; James, age 10 PA, Mary, age 7 PA; Joseph, age 6 PA; Rachel E., age 4 PA; William, age 3 months PA; Alexander, age 8 PA.

1860 Census, Bratton Twp, Mifflin Co PA, Dwelling 2053, Family 1937: Martha ANDERSON, age 43 PA; James ANDERSON, age 21 Ireland, farmer; Alexr, age 19 PA, farm laborer; Mary, age 17 PA; Joseph, age 15 PA, farm laborer; Rachel, age 13 PA; Francis, age 4 PA; Henry ROBISON, age ?16? PA, farmer.

According to pension papers, Alexander returned home to PA on furlough about a year after joining the 120th and was ill. In telling this, his widow said that he was never in any other military service other than the 120th OH.

1870 Census, Bratton Twp, Mifflin Co PA, Dwelling 48, Family 48: Alex ANDERSON, age 30 PA, farmer; Anna, age 25 PA; Ida, age 8 PA; Harry, age 4 PA; William, age 2 PA; Frances [female], age 5 months PA.

1880 Census, McVeytown, Oliver Twp, Mifflin Co PA, Dwelling 126, Family 127: Alexander ANDERSON, age 44 PA, farmer parents born PA; Annie E, wife, age 34 PA, parents born PA; Ida J, daughter, age 17 PA; Harry M. C., son, age 14 PA; William, son, age 12 PA; Francis, daughter, age 10 PA; Nancy, daughter, age 8 PA; Annie, daughter, age 5 PA; Manda, daughter, age 2 PA.

Excerpts from pension papers sent by Bryan:

"Alex Anderson and I were raised together in Mifflin Co Pa near McVeytown. He helped his father on the farm and at the station at Anderson in said Co. He was a healthy hearty boy when he enlisted, but he had a spell of lung fever when he was 17 years of age.....he fully recovered in about two weeks."

"My maiden name was Annie E.GRO. He [Alexander Anderson] took the name John S. Fortney because a girl named Elizabeth Greenawalt swore a child on him and he had it to pay for. She married Wm Yoder and they live near Anderson, Mifflin Co Pa. The child Alice married a man named Stainer, Jeff Stainer, I think, and they live near Anderson, Mifflin Co Pa."

*"My husband came home from the army in June or July 1865, and within four weeks thereafter we went to housekeeping at Anderson Station Mifflin Co PA. We lived there one year and he hauled wood. From there we moved to within one mile of McVeytown, and we lived there six months. My husband hauled stone there out of a quarry. We then moved onto a farm belonging to Wm Wilson, now dead, four miles above McVeyton, and my husband farmed. After a year we moved on to a farm one mile from Mattawana Station, PA, and farmed there for five years for Mickael Yoder who I think is still living. We then sold out and my husband worked on the railroad as a trackman under Sam Auckerman who is now dead. While at this work we lived for 11 months in the fi**t house *** **scent? to keeping house in at Anderson Station Pa. We then moved across the river into Little? Valley, Mifflin Co Pa. (P.O. Strodes? Mill), where we lived 10 or 11 years, and farmed for Lloyd Williams of Baltimore Md. I don't know whether he is living. We then moved to Lewistown Junction, a mile from Lewistown, Mifflin Co Pa and farmed there for 2? years for Mrs. Morrison, who is still living. From Lewistown Junction we came to Altoona April 1 1892 and have lived here or in this vicinity ever since, and my husband has been at work in the blacksmith shops of the Pa R.R. Co."*

"When my husband came home from the army he came right from prison, was very weak, and was just a shadow...."

1900 Census, Logan Twp, Blair Co, PA, Dwelling 421, Family 421, dated 16 June 1900: Anna ANDERSON, age 54 PA, parents born PA; William, son, age 32 PA, single, born July 1867, blacksmith RR shop, parents born PA; Frances, daughter, age 30 PA, single, born Feb 1870, servant; Maud, daughter, age 22 PA, single, born July 1877, servant; Mary, daughter, age 18 PA, single, born Nov 1881, servant; Joseph, son, age 12 PA, born Jan 1888; Earl PLUMMER, grandson, age 4 PA, born July 1895. [Alexander, according to pension records died in 1900 before the date of the census.]

1910:Ward1 Juniata, Blair, PA 1317/098b/79 (Annie E. Anderson) widowed

Children living in 1898 listed in pension papers: Ida J. 5 Oct 1862; Harry M 16 Apr 1866; Wm S. 28 July 1868; Frances M. 14 Feb 1870; W. Margaret 21 June 1871; Annie D. 3 May 1875; Maudy 28 July 1878; Mary M. 3 Nov 1881; Joseph 23 Jan 1887. This paper was signed by Alexander Anderson, alias John S. Fortney