

Company D, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

KEISTER, Elijah G. 22 Aug 1862 Elijah Garrison
KEISTER

Private Elijah Keister was 28 yrs when he enrolled. He was captured 3 May 1864, near Snaggy Point, on Red River, Louisiana; mustered out 7 July, 1865 at Camp Chase, OH.

"List of Casualties...while on board the Steamer 'City Belle' near 'Snaggy Point' La, May 3d 1864..." Private E.G. KEISTER, missing, wounded. [From the records of the Ohio Adjutant General, available at the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio. Contributed by Kerry Kimberly]

Father: Adam KEISTER

Mother: Barbara SHUMAN

Birth: 22 Aug 1832 PA

Marriage: Sarah MARTIN, 2 Oct 1856, East Union Twp, Wayne Co OH

Death: 9 Dec 1919, East Union Twp, Wayne Co OH

Cemetery: Wooster Cem, Wayne Co OH, Mausoleum, Section 25.

Relationship: Brother, Adam KEISTER, Co D 120th OVI

Pension index: Elijah G KEISTER, Co D, 120th OVI, applied for an invalid pension 22 Mar 1887, Application 603096, Certificate 404605, filed in OH. Elijah died 8 Dec 1919 at Wooster OH.

1850 Census Salt Creek, Wayne County OH: Adam KEISTER, age 57 PA, a farmer; Barbara, age 55 PA; Joseph, age 21 PA; Jacob, age 19 OH, a farmer; Elijah, age 15 OH; Margaret A, age 22 OH; Adam A, age 9 OH [see above]. [Note: Adam and Barbara (Shuman) Keister]

1860 Census, Salt Creek Twp, Wayne County, OH, page 181: Elijah G KUSTER, age 24 OH, farmer; Sarah, age 22 OH; Joseph M, age 1 OH.

1870 Census, Series M593 Roll 1281, Wayne Twp, Wayne Co OH, page 356: Garry E KEISTER, age 36 OH, farmer; Sarah, age 31 OH; Joseph M, age 11 OH; James MANGUS, age 34 PA, works on farm; Conrad BENNING, age 21 MD, works on farm.

1880 Census East Union Twp, Wayne County OH, page 174 : Elijah G KEISTER, age 45 OH, farmer, parents born PA; Sarah, wife, age 41 OH, father born PA, mother born OH.

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia. [Wayne County version] published in 1885, page 492: Elijah Garrison Keister -- was one of Wayne county's volunteers to the 120th Ohio Infantry, mustering into Company D of that regiment at Camp Mansfield, October 17, 1862. He served in the ranks until after the battles of Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post, and on return to the Mississippi, at Youngs Point, he was detailed teamster, in which capacity he served till the regiment reported at New Orleans, previous to the Red River campaign. Through the advance on Vicksburg and its siege he was hauling munitions, mail, and provisions, and was busy and efficient in keeping his company supplied with these necessities. While the army lay at Millikens Bend he was detailed transport to the boats, then was ordered on the boat with wagon and six mules, and taken one hundred and fifty miles up the river to James Landing, where he helped to load several thousand bales of cotton. At Yazoo river he helped to load a pontoon bridge under heavy fire from the enemy. On the capture of the City Belle, at Snaggy Point, Mr. Keister was one of the unfortunates. He jumped ashore, and taking in the situation, started to run, throwing his gun and cartridge box into the river first. But he was captured, and sent via Alexandria to Shreveport, where he was lodged in the jail for a time, then marched to Camp Ford, Texas, where for thirteen months he never had enough to eat a single day, and was subjected to the other privations we have elsewhere described. [See the history page on this site.] He has in his possession still a specimen of the roughly ground meal furnished them for food. After he was discharged he marched to Shreveport, went by boat to New Orleans, thence by St. Louis and Cincinnati to Columbus, where he was discharged from the service July 9, 1865. He was born in Salt Creek township, Wayne county August 22, 1834, son of Adam and Barbara (Shuman) Keister, and was married in East Union township, October 2, 1856. His wife is Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Harriet (Thompson) Martin, born in Salt Creek township, February 18, 1839. They have an only son, Joseph Martin [KEISTER]. born December 21, 1858, living at home. Mrs. Keister lost two brothers in the service, Joseph, supposed to have been killed by Indians in the West; Elias D. belonged to Co. E, 169th O.N.G., died at Fort Ethan Allen, July 3, 1864. Farming is Mr. Keister's occupation, and his postoffice address is Wooster.

1890 Veterans Schedule: East Union, Wayne Co OH: Line 8, House 74, Family 77: Elijah G. KEISTER, Pvt, Co D 120th OH Inf. Post Office: East Union. Prisoner at Camp Ford Texas one year, 24 dys.

1900 Census, East Union Twp, Wayne County OH, page 159: Elijah KEISTER, age 64 OH, born Aug 1836, married 41?yrs, farmer, parents born PA; Sarah, wife, age 60 OH, born Oct 1839, married 41 yrs, father born PA, mother born OH; also living there was a boarder, Harry KAUFFMAN, age 24 OH, born Jan 1876, single, farm laborer, parents born OH.

1910 Census, East Union Twp, Wayne County OH, page 160: Elijah G KEISTER, age 76 OH, first marriage, married 53 yrs, parents born PA, farmer on general farm; Sarah, wife, age 71 OH, first marriage, married 53 yrs, 1 child/0 still living, father born PA, mother born OH; also living there a hired man, Ralph SToudenheimer, age 17 OH, single, farm laborer, parents born OH. [Note: Column 30 is marked UA indicating military service for Elijah.]

Ohio Online Death Certificate Index: Elijah G KEISTER, died 9 Dec 1919 in Wayne County OH.

Grave Registration Card: Elijah G KEISTER, 120th OVI, is buried at Wooster Cemetery. Born 1832.

Family Search Death Record in Ohio: File #72388, Elijah Garrison KEISTER died 9 Dec 1919 at East Union Twp, Wayne Co OH. Widowed. Farmer. Born 22 Aug 1832 in PA. Parents, Adam KEISTER and Barbara SHUMAN, born PA. Burial Wooster. Informant, Beryl R. WEILER of Shreve OH.

Wife's Family Search Death Record in Ohio: File #31163, Sarah KEISTER died 12 May 1915 at East Union Twp, Wayne Co OH. Married. Born 8 Feb 1869 [Can't be right] in OH. Father Joseph MARTIN, born PA. Mother Hilah THOMPSON, born OH. Burial Wooster OH. Informant, E. G. KEISTER, of Apple Creek OH.