

Company D, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credit: Edward Rowland at [Find a Grave](#).

KEISTER, John C. 15 Oct 1862

John Crumley KEISTER

Private John Keister was 18 yrs when he enrolled. He was transferred to Co. E 114th OVI on 27 Nov 1864. Transferred to Co E, 48th OVI, 24 July 1865. Mustered out 14 Oct 1865.

Father: Abraham KEISTER

Mother: Sarah BEERBOWER

Birth: 1 Dec 1843, Saltcreek Twp, Wayne Co OH

Marriage: Edith Jane KEISTER, at Millbrook, Wayne Co OH

Death: 10 Feb 1935, Pekin, Brown Twp, Carroll Co OH

Cemetery: Bethlehem Cemetery, Malvern, Carroll Co OH

Pension information: John C KEISTER, E 48th, E 114th, and D 120th OH Inf. Invalid filed 24 Dec 1888, Application 682702, Certificate 950046, filed in OH.

1850 Census, East Union Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 269, Family 270: Abram KEISTER, age 30 PA, farmer; Sarah, age 34 VA; Jacob A., age 10 OH; John C, age 6 OH; William H, age 4 OH; Adam W., age 10 months OH.

1860 Census, Plain Twp, Wayne County OH, page 279: Abraham KEISTER, age 39 PA, farmer (tenant?); Sarah, age 43 VA; Jacob A, age 21 OH, farm labor; John C, age 15 OH, farm labor; Adam, age 11 OH; Niyonida? [female], age 4 OH [Maranda in the 1870 census?].

1870 Census Wooster Twp, Wayne County OH, page 384: John C KESTER, age 27 OH, farmer tenant; Edithe J, age 24 OH; Harrey, age 14 months OH; Adam W, age 20 OH, works on farm.

1880 Census, Wooster Twp, Wayne County OH, page 355: John KEISTER, age 36 OH, works on farm, parents born OH; Editha, wife, age 33 OH, father born VA, mother born PA: Harry, son, age 11; Olive, daughter, age 9 OH; Willard, son, age 7 OH; Benton, son, age 5 OH; Mattie, daughter, age 4 OH; Wallace, son, age 2 OH.

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia. [Wayne County version] published in 1885, page 479 in the Wooster township section:

John Crumley Keister entered the ranks of the Union army at Mansfield, O. October 14, 1862. He was mustered into service as a private in Company D, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and his regiment was assigned to the 3rd brigade, 9th division, and 13th army corps. In the fall of 1864 he was transferred to Co. D, of the 114th Ohio volunteer infantry, at the mouth of the White River in Arkansas, serving in this regiment about ten months, when they were consolidated with the 48th Ohio volunteer infantry and served as such until discharged. Mr. Keister first took the field with his regiment in Tennessee. He took part in the battles of Chickasaw Bluffs, Arkansas Post, Port Gibson, and participated in the siege of Vicksburg. He joined the Banks' Red River expedition and was on board the steamer "City Belle" when she was fired upon by the rebel batteries. Only sixteen of his company escaped capture and he was fortunate enough to be of that number, though he ran great danger of being shot while doing so, and suffered from hunger and hardships before reaching the Union lines at Alexandria. Among other encounters with the enemy in which he was engaged was the assault on Fort Blakely, the last battle of the war, after which he served in Alabama and Texas until discharged at Houston in the latter state, October 14, 1865, having been actively engaged thru three years. He is a member of Given Post No. 133, G.A. R.

He was born in Saltcreek township, Wayne county, Ohio, Dec. 1, 1843, a son of Abraham and Sarah (Beerbower) Keister.

At Millbrook, in Wayne county he married Edith Jane Keister, born in Plain township, Wayne county, Oct. 22

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1846, the daughter of George and Mary (Smith) Keister. They have six children who were born as follows: Harvey A., 28 May 1869; Olive B., 25 Feb 1871; Willard C., 15 Oct 1872; Benton D., 2 Oct 1874; Mattie E., 17 Feb 1876; Wallace F., 30 Nov 1877; and Bessie G., 2 Feb 1885. Mr. Keister is engaged in farming near Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio.

1890 Veterans Schedule: Wooster, Wayne Co OH: Line 18, House 27, Family 28: John C KEISTER, Pvt, Co E 48th OVI Post Office: Wooster, Wayne Co OH. Disability: piles.

1900 Census, Village of Cypress, Minerva Precinct, Brown Twp, Carroll County OH, page 33,[15 June 1900]: John C KEISTER, age 56 OH, born Dec 1843, married 32 yrs, farmer laborer, father born PA, mother born VA; Edith J, wife, age 53 OH, born Oct 1846, married 32 yrs, 7 children/7 still living, father born PA, mother born VA; Harvey A, son, age 31 OH, born May 1863, single, day laborer; Willard C, son, age 27 OH, born Oct 1872, single, day laborer; Benton D, son, age 25 OH, born Oct 1874, single, day laborer; Wallace T, son, age 22 OH, born Nov 1877, single, day laborer; Bessie G, daughter, age 15 OH, born Feb 1885, single.

1910 Census, Minerva Rd, Brown Twp, Carroll County, OH, page 15: John C KEISTER, age 66 OH, widowed, father born PA, mother born VA, farm laborer; Benton, son, age 35 OH, single, brick works laborer. [Column 30 marked UA for military service for John.]

1920 Census, Peking Village, Brown Twp, Carroll County OH, page 154: John C. Keister, age 76 OH, widowed, father born PA, mother born VA, no occupation; Benton, son, age 47 OH, single, laborer in brick yard.

There is an article with a photo in the Canton Repository, 21 Sept 1930, page 37 that reports John Keister, age 87, is Pekin's oldest war veteran.

It lists his children: Harvey A of Pkin, Mrs. Oillie B. Miller of Canton, Wilard C of Pekin, Benton D of Pekin, Mrs. Mattie E Mottice of Akron, Wallace F of East Palestine, and Miss Bessie G of Pekin.

Obituary from the Daily Record of Wooster on 18 Feb.1935 page 9 for John KEISTER says that, his wife, Mrs. Keister died July 10, 1900[?]. It says they had six children, and that their son Benton D. preceeded his father in death by just two months and five days. John Keister also left 24 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Repository [Canton OH], 12 Feb 1935, page 9: John C. Keister was age 91 at his death. Funeral was in daughter's home, Mrs. Clyde Harsh near Minerva. Burial Bethlehem Cem. Served in 120th Ohio. Member of GAR. Survivors: Daughters Mrs. Harsh, Mrs. Mattie Mottice of North industry, Mrs. Ollie Miller of Canton. Sons Harvey, Williard and Wallace all of Pekin. Sister Mrs. Margaret Berry of Wooster. 16 great-grand children.

Ohio Online Death Certificate Index: John C KEISTER, died October 1935 in Carroll County OH. He is not in the Wayne county Graves Registration book.

Death record in Ohio: File #8008, John C KEISTER died 10 Feb 1935 at Pekin, Brown Twp, Carroll Co OH. Widower. Retired farmer. Born 1 Dec 1843 at Wooster, OH. Parents Adam KEISTER and Barbara BEERBOWER, born PA. Burial Bethelhem [sic]. Informant Mrs. Clyde HARSH of RFD1 Minerva OH.