

Company D, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credit: Susie Holderfield

SPEAR, Wesley W. 8 Aug 1862 Captain Spear is also listed in [Company E](#). But all of the information I have for him is listed here with Company D. Wesley Wells SPEAR
1st Lieutenant Spear was age 26 when he entered service.

He was appointed 1st Sergeant from Sergeant in Feb. 1863; promoted to 2d Lieutenant on 15 Mar 1863; to 1st Lieutenant to date on 23 Mar 1863; wounded 11 July 1863 in the battle of Jackson, Mississippi; transferred to Co. E. on 26 Feb 1864. Transferred to Co F, 48th OVI, 24 July 1865.

Mustered out 14 Oct 1865.

Father: William SPEAR
Mother: Malinda WELLS
Birth: 28 Dec 1835, Wooster, OH

Marriage: Anna M. WATT, 27 Mar 1866

Death: 20 Nov 1920, Wooster, Wayne Co OH

Cemetery: Wooster Cemetery, Wayne Co OH

W. W. SPEAR, Wooster Cemetery, Wayne Co OH, Section 9. 1835 - 1920 [Note that the flag holder says Co I, but I don't find him in that company.]

Anna M. 1840 - 1918 William and Malinda are buried nearby.

Grave Registration Card indicates that he was in Co. F of the 48th. It says he was born 28 Dec 1835 and died 20 Nov 1920. He is buried in Wooster Cemetery.

Pension Index: Wesley W SPEAR, Capt. H, F and E 120th OH Inf., First Lt D 121 OH Inf, First Lt H 102 OH Inf. Invalid filed 1879 May 8, Application 285040, Certificate 196122. Pension Card: D, F, H 120th OH Inf. H 102nd OH Inf. Wesley died 20 Nov 1920 at Wooster OH.

1850 Census, Wooster, Wayne Co OH, dwelling 114, family 114: William SPEAR, age 47 PA, cabinet maker; Melinda, age 42 PA; twin William F, age 14 OH; twin Wesley W, age 14 OH; Caroline M, age 11 OH; Sarah A.O.S?, age 5 OH; Harriet S, age 30 VT; Catherine LIVINGSTON, age 21 OH; Clark KNOX?, age 19 OH, cabinet maker; James PERSHING, age 18 OH, cabinet maker.

1860 Census, Wooster, Wayne County OH, page 280 : William SPEAR, age 56 PA, master cabinet maker; Malinda, age 46 OH ; Wesley W. age 24 OH, cabinet maker; Caroline, age 22 OH ; Olive, age 15 OH. Also living there were Jesse WIDDLE, age 23 PA, journeyman cabinet maker [see below]; George WYMER, age 26 Germany, journeyman cabinet maker; John MARKS, age 17 OH, apprentice cabinet maker; John BOYDSTON, age 17 OH, apprentice cabinet maker; Alfred WALLICH, age 18 OH, apprentice cabinet maker. [Note: Ann Maria, age 21 Ireland and Charles, age 1 OH, are listed with her father Joseph WATT, age 52 Ireland, Butter and Egg Merchant. They are living in 1st Division, Wooster, PAGE 282. She is not listed as SPEAR.]

Wayne County Probate Court record: Wesley W SPEAR married Ann M WATT on 27 Mar 1866 in Wayne County OH.

1870 Census, 4th Ward, Wooster, Wayne County OH, page 462: Wesley SPEAR, age 34 OH, cabinet maker; Ann M, age 30 Ireland; Charles W, age 11 OH; John, age 3 months OH, born in March; Joseph W, age 28 months OH. Also living there are Joseph WATT, age 65 Ireland, produce dealer; Mary J BROWN, age 18 OH, house keeper.

1880 Census, 4th Ward, Wooster, Wayne, OH, page 403: Westley SPEAR, age 45 OH, furniture manuf., parents born PA; Annie M, wife, age 39 IRE, parents born IRE; Charles W, son, age 21 OH, single, cabinet maker, father born OH, mother born IRE; Jesse W, son, age 8 OH; Minnie Ray, daughter, age 4 months OH; Joseph WATT, father-in-law, widowed, age 70 IRE, butter and egg shipper, parents born IRE; also living there and listed as "other" are Isabel GLASS, age 20 OH, marriage column not marked, servant, father born OH, mother born VA; Jacob MARBEL, age 17 OH, painter, single, parents born OH.

1890 Veterans Schedule: Wooster, Wayne Co OH: Line 10, House 227, Family 250: Westley W. SPEAR, 2nd Sgt, Co D 120 OVI. Post Office: Wooster, OH. Disability: sun stroke caused blindness.

History of Wayne County Ohio, published in 1910 by B.E. Bowen and Co.

CAPT. WESLEY WELLS SPEAR. What greater badge of honor could be stowed upon a man than to allude to him as one of the "boys in blue," who readily sacrificed the pleasures of home and business opportunities to do what he could in saving the honor of the old flag? One of this brave number is Capt. Wesley W. Spear, an interesting and deserving citizen of Wooster, Wayne county, who was born in that city December 28, 1835, the son of William Spear, who was born near Shippingberg, Pennsylvania, in 1803, and who came to Wayne county about 1827. He was a cabinetmaker by trade, and he located in Wooster where he established a shop and led a very active life here until his death, in 1890, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He was an honest, hardworking and highly respected man. He married Malinda Wells a native of York county, Pennsylvania. Her father conducted a whip factory at Wellsville, that county, and the town derived its name from the family. Mrs. Spear was born in 1808 and died the same year as her husband, 1890--in fact only four days after her husband passed away. To them seven children were born, four of whom lived to maturity, Wesley W., of this review, being a twin brother of William Fletcher, who died about five years ago, Caroline Spear, and Olive, widow of Rev. James Mendenhall, both of whom reside in Arkansas, are the other children. Captain Spear has always made Wooster his home, although he has traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On August 6, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Twentieth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and very faithfully served for a period of three years. He was mustered in at Camp Mansfield, Ohio, as a private, and he proved to be a very capable soldier from the first, having been commissioned a second lieutenant and a few days later was made first lieutenant. He had a varied and interesting experience during the service, taking part in many battles and engagements, among them being the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Thompson's Hill, Champion's Hill and the siege of Vicksburg, under General Sherman. He was wounded at Jackson, Mississippi, July 12, 1863, having been shot in the right groin with a minie ball. This brought him home on a furlough, but, recovering, he later rejoined his regiment in western Louisiana, where the brigade was divided and Mr. Spear was stationed on Colonel Shelton's staff, doing staff duty that winter at Peackamon, Louisiana. Again in active service, he was with his company going up Red river when the boat which was transporting them was fired on and captured, their colonel and about one-half of the company killed or captured. This necessitated consolidation with the One Hundred and fourteenth Ohio Regiment, and Mr. Spear was made captain and given command of Company H, of that regiment. As captain of that company he was in the siege of Fort Blakeley at Mobile, also Spanish Fort there. Near the close of the war Captain Spear was transferred to the Forty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteers, and after a very eventful career he was mustered out of service at Houston, Texas, October 17, 1865, after which he returned to Wooster, and, with his father, engaged in the cabinetmaking and undertaking business. After the war his eyesight began to fail gradually, and in 1885 he became totally blind, and he has since lived in quiet retirement from the world. Captain Spear was married in 1858 [incorrect] to Anna M. Watt, who was born in north Ireland and came to Philadelphia when five years of age with her father, who went into the produce business there, later removing to Wooster, Ohio, and continued the same line of business here for several years. Of the seven children born to the Captain and wife, only two survive, namely: Charles Wesley Spear, of Northampton, Massachusetts, and Jesse Watt Spear, a conductor on the Pennsylvania railroad at Crestline, Ohio. Captain Spear lives on West Liberty street in the home he purchased in 1867. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, being a charter member of Given Post. Notwithstanding his affliction, Captain Spear is a cheerful, genial and interesting man to talk to, who enjoys life, conscious of the fact that he has performed his duty well and greater rewards await him than his fellow-men have ever bestowed. A man of good health, of snowy hair and beard, he is a picturesque character and is greatly admired by all who know him.

1900 Census, 4th Ward, Wooster, Wayne County OH, page 178: Wesley W SPEAR, age 64 OH, born Dec 1835, married 33 yrs, parents born PA, is blind; Anna M, wife, age 58 Ireland, born May 1842, married 33 yrs, 7 children/2 still living, parents born Ireland, came to US in 1848, resided in US 52 yrs.

1910 Census, West Liberty Street, 4th Ward Wooster, Wayne County OH, page 121: Wesley W SPEER, age 74 OH, first marriage, married 44 yrs, parents born PA, own income; Anna M, wife, age 66 Ireland, first marriage, married 44 yrs, 6 children/2 still living, parents born Ireland/spoke English, year of immigration 1850. [Note: Column 30 ie marked UA for military service. He is also marked as blind.]

1920 Census, Series T625 Roll 1448, West Liberty St, Wooster, Wayne Co OH, page 144-145: Mary SPEAR, age 46 OH, widow, father born Scotland, mother born PA; Robert W, son, age 24 OH, single, parents born OH, no occupation; Alice M, daughter, age 17 OH, parents born OH, telephone operator; Charles W, son, age 16 OH, parents born OH, machinist in machine shop; Eleanor J., daughter, age 12 OH, parents born OH; Wesley W, father in law, age 84 OH, widowed, father born US, mother born PA, no occupation.

Daily Record, Tuesday, 30 Nov 1920, page 2

Capt. Spear Called Today

Capt. W. W. Spear, 92 years old, one of Wooster's oldest residents died on Tuesday afternoon at the family home on West Liberty street. He suffered a stroke of paralysis two weeks ago and had been in a critical condition since that time. [Note: age is wrong] The funeral announcement will be made Wednesday.

Daily Record, Wednesday, 1 Dec 1920, page 3

Capt. Spear A Resident Here Over 84 Years

The death Tuesday afternoon of Capt. Wesley W. Spear at the family home on West Liberty street removed from the city's activity one of the oldest business men in Wayne county. Mr. Spear was born in Wooster, spent his life here, was an active business man for many years and enjoyed the quiet of a retired life for a few years before his death.

For many years Mr. Spear conducted a furniture store on West Liberty street and was one of the city's funeral directors. He conducted his business in the rooms now occupied by Bevington and Halteman.

Mr. Spear was born December 28, 1835, and died November 30, 1920, having reached the age of 84 years, 11 months and 2 days. His last illness was of two weeks duration. He suffered a slight stroke of paralysis and failed rapidly until his spirit took flight from earthly troubles and sorrow. He was a son of William Spear.

In August 1862 he enlisted in Company D 120th regiment O.V.I. and before the close of the war had risen to the rank of captain. After the war Capt. Spear's eyesight began to fail and in 1885 he became totally blind, being compelled to give up active business.

Capt. Spear was married in 1858 to Anna M. Watt. Of the seven children born to the union only one, Charles W. Spear of Northampton, Mass., survives. Mrs. Spear died November 18, 1918 and one son Jesse Spear died recently. Capt. Spear was for years a member of the G.A.R. He was a charter member of Given Post of this city. The funeral will be held from the home Friday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Ohio Online Death Certificate Index: Wesley V SPEAR died 30 Nov 1920 in Wayne County OH.

Death Record in Ohio: File #72639, Wesley W. SPEAR, of 328 W. Liberty St, died 30 Nov 1920 at Wooster, Wayne Co OH. Widowed. Wife Anna M SPEAR. Retired undertaker. Born 28 Dec 1835 at Wooster, OH. Father, William SPEAR, born Shippenburg, PA. Mother Malinda WELLS, born PA. Burial Wooster Cem. Informant, Mrs. Jesse SPEAR, of Wooster, OH.

Wife, Death Record in Ohio: File #82974, Anna M SPEAR, of Wooster in Wayne Co OH, died 18 Nov 1918 at Perry Twp, Stark Co OH. Married to W. W. SPEAR. Burial Wooster OH.