

Company G, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

RIGDON, John 13 Aug 1862

John, age 20, is listed in the Roster of Ohio Soldiers 1861-66 volume 8, page 262 as a private.
No comments listed in the Roster.

Father: Campbell RIGDON
Mother: Nancy PEEKHAMUS
Birth: <1842> OH
Marriage: Nancy ???DAY
Death: 1925 or later, maybe Kansas
Cemetery: Have not found.

Pension index: John RIGDON, G 120th OVI filed for an invalid pension 30 July 1890, Application 881237, filed in Missouri.



Photo Credit: Jim Swearngin, great great grandson of John Rigdon

1850 Census, Franklin, Summit Co OH, Page 45B, family 2676:
Camplet D. RIGDON, age 37 PA, laborer; Nancy, age 46 PA; Mary Ann, age 10 OH; Elizabeth Ann, age 10 OH: John, age 8, OH; Lucinda I., age 5 OH. [Medina County Probate Court record: Campbell RIGDON married Nancy PEEKHAMUS on 23 Apr 1837 in Medina Co OH.] [John's sister, Lucinda, at [Find a Grave](#)]

1860 Census, Series: M653 Roll: 1051, Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co OH, page 367: C D RIGDON, age 45 OH, grover; Nancy, age 55 PA; Elizabeth A, age 20 PA, domestic; John, age 18 PA.

[grover = a miner of lead, according to [A to Zax](#) by Barbara Jean Evans]

Wooster Republican, 1 Jan 1863: Listed John RIGDEN's residence as Chippewa.

Parents: 1870 Census, Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 183, Family 191: Campbell RIGDON, age 59 PA, ?grocery keeper; and Nancy, age 64 PA, Helmck Cory RIGDON, age 9 PA; David SMITH, age 47 Scotland; Mary SMITH, age 31 OH; Rowland, age 4 OH; Anna, age 8 months OH.

wife Nancy: 1860 Census, Linden Twp, Christian Co MO, Dwelling 708, Family 708: James M. DAY, age 35 TN; Martha, age 28 MO; Wiley, age 14 TN; Barthena, age 12 TN; Nancy, age 8 TN; William, age 6 MO; Josephine, age 3 MO.

married Nancy <1869>

1870 Census, Porter Twp, Christian Co MO, Dwelling 145, Family 145: John REAGEON, age 25 OH, works at saw mill; Nancy, age 17 TN; Barthena, age 1 MO.

Note: Their neighbor was Willy DAY, age 24 TN, working at saw mill, wife Martha, children William and James.

1880 Census, June 1860 date, Clay Twp, Greene Co MO: Jno. RIGDON, age 36 MO, parents born OH, farm laborer; Nancy, wife, age 27 TN, parents born TN; Pathena, daughter, age 10 MO; May or Mary E., daughter, age 7 MO; Chas E., son, age 2 MO; Marthe B?, age 2 months born May in MO.

[Washington, Death Certificates, 1907-1960: [Mary Ellen JOHNSON](#) died 17 Feb 1945 in Centralia, Lewis Co Washington, age 73 yrs, 3 m 14 dys, born <1872>. Husband was [Henry P. JOHNSON](#). Her father was John RIGDON and her mother was Nancy DAY. In the 1940 Census, both Mary Ellen and husband Henry were born in Missouri. They were living in Centralia, Lewis Co, Washington. In the 1930 Census, Mary E. says that her father was born in OH and her mother was born in MO. Mary was married at age 20 and Henry was 19.] [Johnson children: Lorraine V, born 1913, married 1929 Lewis Co Washington; Ola F, married age 36 in Lewis Co WA...yr not given.]

Pension information obtained by Debbie Ferdetta at the National Archives:

John applied from Highlandville, Christian Co MO on 30 July 1890. Another notation was 26 Mar 1891, Sparta, Christian Co, MO. Question of desertion. Law Office of Charles and William B. King, Washington DC, 5 Jan 1895: "We are doing all we can to have the charge of desertion removed from claimant's military record." John wrote: "Gents: I never have had a discharge, was in prison when the war closed at Tyler TX

and was just turned loose. Respectfully, Jno. Rigdon."
John's request for a pension was rejected on 16 May 1895.

Note: John Rigdon is not on the list of 120th OVI soldiers who were released from Camp Ford prison at Tyler, TX, in 1865. So maybe John just walked away and didn't leave with the group and so was not on the official list that was made when the prisoners were released.

Note from Jim Swearngin about Rigdon's trying to get his charge of desertion removed:

"I had contact with the historical society years ago about the prisoners at Camp Ford. I am trying to do this info from memory until I find my paperwork. I also got a neat book from them about the camp.

I also did some research on the US / CSA pows and was told that the CSA records were not well kept. Anyway during the research I found that when the war ended many pow's on both sides just left and went home as the gates were open and no guards. The majority of them were sick from their treatment as pows.

I also found in a book on the war that after it was over the Union side tracked down as high as 50 to 70 percent of the deserters. They were either shot or hanged. I talked to a base commander about this and was told as far as John Rigdon was concerned they knew where he was at but never went after him. Why?

Also he like many others felt since the war was over they didn't go back to the military. So they were never given a discharge. My entire family and ancestors were military. My ancestor Capt. Van Swearingen was a scout for Gen. George Washington. I don't know the whole story about John Rigdon but after so many deserters were executed why would they leave him alone knowing his location. He was also represented by the King Brothers who made lots of money representing those in similar situations. They were also 'shysters.' John did say he just walked out the gate and went home. He also had 2 witnesses who could verify his captivity. A Capt McKinney and another soldier. They were never contacted but did get their pensions. One died and the other one was alive but never questioned.

It all makes for interesting reading and speculation but I don't know other than what we have. If he would of been a deserter I think he would of wanted to remain in the background and not draw any unwanted attention to himself. The Ohio GS sent me papers and said he was not carried as a deserter. However they were federalized and who knows for sure. His witnesses were not contacted, he was not executed."

1900 Census, Sarcoxie Twp (north part), Jasper Co MO, Dwelling 21, Family 21: John RIGDON, age 67 OH, parents born OH, born Jan 1849, married 27 yrs, farm laborer; Nancy, wife, age 48 TN, parents born TN, born Aug 1851, married 27 yrs, 7 children/4 still living; Harry, son, age 14 MO, born Mar 1886, farm laborer.

1910 Census, Liberty St, Webb city Ward 2, Joplin Twp, Jasper Co MO, Dwelling 96, Family 107: Harry RIGDON, age 23 MO, first marriage, married 2 yrs, father born OH, mother born TN, hoister man in mines; Nora, wife, age 23 MO, first marriage, married 2 yrs, one child/one still living, parents born TN; Earl, son, age one MO, parents born MO; John, father, age 66 OH, first marriage, married 40 yrs, column 30 NOT marked for military service; Nancy, mother, age 58?, first marriage, married 40 yrs, 7 children/3 still living, parents born TN; Arthur RAMSEY, bro-in-law, age 26 MO, single, father born OH, mother born TN, laborer in mine; Mark RAMSEY, bro-in-law, age 24 MO, single, father born OH, mother born TN, laborer in mine.

This may be soldier John with his daughter in 1920:

1920 Census, State Road, North Galloway Twp, Christian Co, MO, Dwelling 185, Family 185 : Henry P. JOHNSON, age 55 MO, farmer, parents born TN; Mollie E, age 47 MO, father born OH, mother born MO; Goldie, age 13 MO; Lorene V., age 7 MO; John RIGDON, father in law, age 67 OH, widowed, father born OH. [John would actually have been 77.]

1920, John's son Harry.

5th Ward, Kansas City, Wyandotte Co KS, Dwelling 116, Family 126: Harry W. RIGDON, age 33 MO, father born OH, mother born TN, trucker for flour mill: Nora, wife, age 33 MO, parents born TN; Earl, son, age 11 MO; Roy, son, age 8 MO; Freda, daughter age 3yrs & 10months MO.

Harry [d 1970] and Nora are buried in [Maple Hill Cemetery](#), Kansas City, Wyandotte Co KS.

Kansas State Census, 1925, 1313 Hasbrook ?street?, Kansas City, Wyandotte KS, line 14, Dwelling 139, Family 131: W H. RIGDON, age 38 MO; Nora, wife, age 38 MO; Earl, son, age 16 MO; Roy, son, age 13 MO; Freda, daughter, age 9 MO; John R, father, age 83 OH, widowed.

[Father John is not listed with Harry in 1930] [In 1940 William H. and Nora were living in Kansas City, Wyandotte Co KS.] [Nora and Harry Rigdon both died in 1970....see [FindaGrave](#). They are buried at Maple Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, KS.]