

Company I, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credit: David Brown at [Find a Grave](#)

Ben PAYNE, the only man in the 120th OVI found to have slave ancestry.

PAYNE, Benjamin enlisted 22 Feb 1864
Private Payne was age 36 when he entered service. Transferred to Co. K, 114th OVI on 27 Nov 1864.
Transferred to Co C, 48th OVI [48th Ohio Infantry Battalion], 24 July 1865. Mustered out 7 May 1866. [Enlisted while living in Logan County.]

[Wikipedia: "Return to Morganza December 6. Expedition to Morgan's Ferry, Atchafalaya River, December 13–14. Moved to Kenner, La., January 8, 1865; thence to Barrancas, Fla., January 24. Campaign against Mobile, Ala., and its Defenses, March 20–April 12. March from Pensacola, Fla., to Blakely, Ala., March 20–April 2. Occupation of Canoe Station March 27. Siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely April 2–8. Assault and capture of Fort Blakely April 9. Occupation of Mobile April 12. March to Montgomery and Selma April 13–25. Duty at Selma until May 12, and at Mobile until June 13. Moved to Galveston, Texas, June 13, and duty there until July. Veterans and recruits transferred

to [48th Ohio Veteran Battalion](#) July 24." [Wikipedia: "The 48th Ohio Infantry was reorganized as the 48th Ohio Infantry Battalion on June 24, 1865 by consolidation of the regiment with the [83rd Ohio Infantry](#) (on January 17, 1865) and 114th Ohio Infantry. It mustered out of service at Galveston, Texas on May 9, 1866." [During the time period that Benjamin would have been with the 48th they had duty at Galveston and Houston, Texas.]

Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879-1903: Benjamin Payne, Pvt., Co C, 48th Regt. Ohio Inf., Greenlawn Cem, Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH, date of death January 11, 1896.

Headstone Application paper: Benjamin PAYNE, enlisted 22 Feb 1864, discharged 7 May 1866, Pvt, Co C 48th Battalion, OH Veterans Inf. Age at death 36. Died 11 Jan 1896. Greenlawn Cem, Portsmouth, OH. Applicant: Robert N. LEWIS, 2244 Vinton Ave, Portsmouth OH. Signed by him 2 June 1962. Address of consignee [cemetery??] 1654 3rd st Portsmouth, OH. The cemetery's address is 55 Mary Ann St.....so I don't know what this consignee address is.

Father: Barret Col Goodson PAYNE [Ancestry.com kayanderson52 Father died in Fluvanna, VA 1853 Connection verified by DNA]

Mother: the slave Mary Polly [Ancestry.com kayanderson52]

Birth: 1828 at ??Richmond VA or Fluvanna Co VA

Marriage: 1Martha J. MILLSTEAD, first wife died 2 Jun 1881 at Urbana, Champaign Co OH

2Mary Jane THOMAS SHEFF, 23 Nov 1887, Scioto Co OH

Death: 11 Jan 1896 at Portsmouth, Scioto Co, OH

Cemetery: Greenlawn Cemetery, Portsmouth, Scioto Co, OH in Soldier's Circle, Sec 15, Co C 48 Battalion OH Inf.

Pension Index: Benjamin PAYNE, Co I 120th OH Inf, Co K 114th OH Inf, Co C 48th OH Inf. Invalid filed Application 639718, Certificate 838777, filed in OH. Widow, Mary J. PAYNE, applied 15 Jan 1896, Certificate 626598, Certificate 434085, filed in OH. [See pension paper information below]

Kay has provided this portion of Barret Payne's will freeing the slave Mary and their children:

"I do set free my mulatto woman named Polly and her four last children, Ben, Joe, Ellen, and Fleming with a desire that my Executors shall provide a safe transportation for them in some free state (knowing that according to the present laws of Virginia they cannot remain free in this state) at the expense of my estate, also to pay them the sum of \$100 at their place of destination for their present support."

Barret died in 1853.

It is interesting that it looks like Ellen, Joe and Fleming came to Ohio before their father died in 1853. And it seems that their mother, May, was with them.

[See Joseph Payne in National Archives pension file notes below. Joseph PAYNE and Mansfield PETERS both testified as to Benjamin's marriage. It is believed that May Payne in this 1850 census is their mother Mary Polly.]

1850 Census, Union Twp, Lawrence Co OH, Dwelling 149, Family 151: Mansfield PETERS, age 24 Va, laborer; Ellen, age 22 VA; Thomas, age 2 OH; Anna, age 3 months OH; May PAYNE, age 55 VA; Joseph PAYNE, age 22 VA, laborer; Phlem PAYNE [male], age 19 VA, laborer. All are listed as mulatto.

[Mansfield's wife Ellen's maiden name was PAYNE. Ohio, Deaths and Burials: Charles Boone PETERS died 5 Oct 1939, at Columbus, Franklin Co OH; born 23 May 1866 at Lawrence Co OH; race, black; single, father Mansfield PETERS born VA; mother Ellen PAYNE, born VA; burial Proctorville, OH. Their child Lelia Fenton HALL verifies the mother's maiden name.] [Ohio Death Record: Ellen PETERS died 3 Nov 1918, Proctorville, Lawrence Co OH; widowed; race, Negro; born VA 30 Aug 1830; father, Barrett PAYNE, born VA; mother born VA; burial Mt. Pisgah.] Ellen PETERS was the soldier's sister. Phlem PAYNE was the soldier's brother Fleming. Joseph PAYNE was the soldier's brother.

1860 Census, Union Twp, Clinton Co OH, Dwelling 347, Family 347: Benjamine PAYNE, age 32 VA, day laborer; Martha M., age 28 VA; Charles, age 3 OH; Martin, age one OH; Easter MELSTED, age 46 VA. All marked M for mulatto.

1864 [Enlisted while living in Logan County.]

1870 Census, Bokes Creek Twp, Logan Co OH, Dwelling 41, Family 41: Benjamin PAIN, age 40 VA, works on farm; Carolina PAIN, age 65 VA; [next page] Martha PAIN, age 38 VA; Charlie, age 12 OH; Morton, age 10 OH; Alvin, age 8 OH; H?? [male] age 4 OH. All marked M for mulatto.

1880 Census, Urbana, Champaign Co, OH, Dwelling 183, Family 208: Benjamin PAYNE, age 52 VA, laborer; Jane, wife, age 47 OH, ??? Disabled?, crippled; [next page] Charles PAYNE, son, age 23 OH, laborer; Molton, son, age 20 OH, laborer; William, son, age 13 or 15 OH. [All listed as mulatto.]

Wife Martha J. died 1881.

United States National Home for Volunteer Soldiers, Dayton OH: Benjamin PAYNE, I 120th OH Inf, K 114th OH Inf, C 48th Battalion OH Inf.; Discharged 7 May 1866 at Columbus OH on General Orders; Injury to left hip May 1864 at Snaggy Point La.; Born Fluvanna Co VA; age 57; Height 6'3", dark complexion, black eyes, gray hair; farmer; residence subsequent to discharge, Ironton [Lawrence co] OH; Widowed; Nearest relative Charles PAYNE of Springfield, OH; Admission to the Home, 10 Jan 1885; Discharge from the home 12 Jan 1891. [See record sheet on last page.]

Remarriage of soldier 1887 at Scioto Co. Ohio, County Marriages: Benjamin PAYNE married Mary Jane SHEFF, 23 Nov 1887 by Rev John Downs, at Scioto Co OH.

[The second Mrs. Payne with her first husband:

1860 Census, Thorndyke post office, Cabell Co VA, Dwelling 1241, Dwelling 1259: John H. SHEFF, age 21 VA, merchant; Mary, age 22 IL, Joseph, age 2 VA; Wm A., age 9 months VA.]

1890 Special Veterans Census, Rush Twp, Scioto Co OH, line 40: Benjamin PAYNE, private Co C 48th OH Inf. Mustered out 17 May 1866.

1900 Census, Clay Twp, Scioto Co OH, Dwelling 61, Family 62: Charlie PAYNE, boarder, born Apr 1858, age 42 OH, parents born OH, day laborer, married 14 yrs, listed as black.

On the same page: Dwelling 66, Family 67: Moton P. PAYNE, age 40 OH, born June 1859, married 13 yrs, father born VA, mother born W. VA, day laborer; wife, Ida M., age 20 OH, paretns born W. VA; born Jan 1874, married 13 yrs, 4 children/3 still living' Patrick H. son, age 10 OH, born Jan 1890; Oscar J., son, age 7 OH, born June 1892; Alvan, son, age 6 OH, born Apr 1894. All listed as white.

Wife, Ohio Death Record: Mary J. PAYNE, Bellefontaine, Logan Co OH, 208 E. Auburn St; "Colored" race. Born 23 Nov 1832 in Illinois; Age 76 y, 4 m, 6 dys; widow; Father, John THOMAS, born VA. Mother, Mary LOVE, born VA. Informant, Mrs. Hattie Marque of Bellefontaine. Burial Bellefontaine [Logan county] Cemetery.

Death record at Family Search: Benjamin PAYNE died 11 Jan 1896 at Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH. Age 79. Born 1817 at Richmond VA. Married. [This age amd birth date can't be right or all the other ages and birthdates that I have for him are wrong. But it is possible that this is his correct birth date since he is the oldest of the other siblings on this page.]

Son's Ohio Death Record: Charlie Augustus PAYNE, died 31 May 1926 at Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH, RFD #2 Lori Hollow, age 68 y 6m 16 d, widowed, white, laborer, born 15 Nov 1857 at Jim Town, Green co OH. Burial Rosemont. Father Benjamin PAYNE, born Richmond VA. Mother Martha MILLSTEAD, born Lawrence Co OH. Spouse, Mary Arnolds Payne.

Son's Ohio Death Record: Moton P. PAYNE, died 17 June 1942 at Clay, Scioto Co OH. Father Benjamin PAYNE. Mother Jane MILATEROL. [Moton's son, Oscar has his mother listed as Ida Sheff Payne. This is found in Oscar's obituary at [Find a Grave.](#)]

Pension Index: Benjamin PAYNE, C 48th, K 114th and I 120th OH Inf. Invalid filed 1888 Feb 13 in OH. Widow Mary J. Payne applied for pension 15 Jan 1896 in OH. Pension Card: Benjamin died 11 Jan 1896 at Portsmouth, OH.

Pension information from National Archives, sent by Debbie Ferdetta:

[3016] Central Branch National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: 18 Apr 1889: Soldier's disability due to Snaggy Point, La, May 1864, injury to left hip. Sciatica left leg - some rheumatism right arm.

[Central Branch](#) is at Dayton, OH.. He was there 1885-1891.

[3024] James MANLEY testified that he "Was on the steamer Ohio Belle when fired into May 2, 1864. Saw Payne jump from the hurricane roof, and strike the barge, crippling his left hip. Have seen him several times since and is still lame in his hip." This was at the attack on the steamer City Belle. MANLEY called the boat "Ohio Belle". Dated March 1888 and Manley was age 52, living at Springfield, Clark Co OH.

[3034] 14 Mar 1889 Benjamin PAYNE was living at Franklin Furnace, Scioto Co OH.

[3037] PAYNE, in 1890, age 62, of Rush Twp, Scioto Co OH: Corrected his account to say that the attack in which he was injured was at Snaggy Point, Louisiana on 2 May 1864.

[3047] Pensioner died 11 Jan 1896

[3048] Description dated 4 Feb 1888: age 61, resident of Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH, height 6 ft 3 in; dark complexion, dark hair, black eyes.

[3063-64] Doctor Ezra B Crow, of Ridgeway P.O., Hardin Co OH, mentions that during the war while PAYNE "was in the army his family lived at the home of George HANNA in the "Flat Woods" about five miles south of here." Dated 11 Sept 1890.

[3067] George HANNA, of Ridgeway, Hardin Co OH, testified: Dated 11 Sept 1890; he was married to Ben Payne's mother in law. "when he lived near Wilmington, Clinton co Ohio...we worked for Z. Hainey?" "took care of his family while he was in the army."

[3082] Enlisted in Co I 120th OVI 22 Feb 1864. Transferred to Co K 114th OH Vol Inf. fall or early winter until June 1865. Transferred in Houston TX to Co C 48th Battalion OH Vol Inf. until mustered out May 1866.

[3094] Transferred to Co K 114th Reg OVI 27 Nov 1864; transferred to Co C 48th Reg OVI 24 July 1865.

Honorably discharged 7 May 1866. Died 11 Jan 1896. Widow married soldier under name Mary SHEFF or SHIFF on 23 Nov 1887 by Rev John Dowers at Scioto Co OH. Soldier's previous wife had died 2 Jun 1881 at Urbana OH. Mary had been married also previously and that husband had died 20 Aug 1865 at Cabell Co West Virginia.

[3083] PAYNE tells his story, dated 9 Aug 1890: "It occurred as follows. We were proceeding up the Red river to re-enforce Genl. Banks and we were on the steamer Ohio Bell and when we get to Snaggy Point, the enemy fired on the Boat with shell, and our Colonel Spiegle was killed, and we all un????? to escape, and while I was on the Cabin? deck, I jumped on to the boiler deck, and struck my left hip against what I thought was a wagon bed, and just bruised the joint of my left hip. I did not feel it much until I stopped in the swamp. There was only one comrade then with me. I do not know his name. James MANLEY saw me when I jumped and he knew I was hurt when I stopped in the swamp. My hip was very painful. I was there in the swamp about one day. I suppose I then got with a small squad and went to Baton Rouge. James Wallace was one of the squad, and I think I told him I was hurt. He was my bunk mate. When we got to Baton Rouge I got some linement for it. I did not go to the hospital and was not treated by any surgeon in the service. When I enlisted I lived in Logan County, Ohio. And Ridgeway was my Post Office, a part of this time is in Harden County Ohio. Jacob SIGG, Jno DAY, Peyton PRINCE, and John BELL knew me there prior to my enlistment. And when I returned from the service, I came back there to Ridgeway, Logan County Ohio and I lived there almost 2 years..... In 1868 I moved to near Proctorville, Lawrence County Ohio, and I lived there about 2 years. Since then I have lived in this County at Franklin Furnace, Portsmouth, and have a???? French P. office, but I have always resided Proctorville."

[3090] Widow was Mary J. She died 29 Mar 1909.

[3091 - 3092] James Manley, of Springfield, Clark Co OH gave description of the attack on the steamer at Snaggy Point, LA. in the pension papers of his comrade Benjamin PAYNE: ... 2nd day of May 1864. On that day our Regt was on the Ohio Belle going up the Red River on the Banks Expedition. There were 25 of us up on the Hurricane Deck as pickets. We did not think there was anything there but guerillas in the woods, but the first thing we knew they opened on us with cannon and then the Infantry fired into us. Claimant [PAYNE] jumped off of the boat into the water and as he fell struck the side of the boat. I ran down the stairway and

there were a couple of Kentucky soldiers swam with a line and pulled the boat to the shore and 154 of us got away. The rebs were on the other side of the river and they captured the balance of the Regt and burned the boat. Our party took to the woods and marched 20 miles and we went into a cotton field and stayed all night. The next day we went to the River and went to Alexandria. It was about 4 weeks after that before Payne joined us. He and one or two more men lay in a swamp awhile. ??? first gun boat that came along they got on it. When he came to us he was all stiffened up and kind of limped when he walked and he was that way when I left the Regt in Oct or Nov 1864. I just saw him as he was on the way to be mustered out and I never saw him again until about 4 years ago. He was near? lame then he was in the army and he complained of rheumatism.... in ?? places. He might have struck the lower deck when he jumped but he ? arrived to jump in the river.

[3093] Former marriage of soldier in 1848; marriage to claimant 16 Dec 1856; death of former wife 2 June 1881; claimant's former husband died 20 Aug 1865; claimant married soldier 23 Nov 1887; Claimant has not remarried.

[3099] Testimony that soldier had not served in military before 1864.

[3116] Morton P. PAYNE, age 36 of Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH, dated 10 Nov 1896: "I am the son of Benjamin Payne, deceased, by his first marriage and was raised by him and have always lived near him and know that after the death of my mother June 2nd 1881 he did not remarry until he married this claimant Nov 23rd 1887."

[3118] Dated 11 July 1896, Margaret SHEFF, age 62 of Cabell Co, West Virginia testified: Mary J. Payne had been married previously to John H. SHEFF.

[3120] Dated 11 July 1896, Francis E. Handley, age 62, of Cabell Co West Virginia: "That I was well acquainted with John H. Sheff the first husband of Mary J Paine the applicant. I was at their marriage and was one of the Brides Maids. They were married Dec 16 1859. ... Her name maiden name was Mary J. Thomas. I was also at the burial of the said John H. Sheff 20 August 1865."

[3123] Dated 24 Sept 1896, M. P. Payne, age 37 of Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH and Charles A. Payne, age 39, of Portsmouth, Scioto Co OH: "We are both sons of Benjamin Payne by his first wife Martha J. Payne and she (our mother) died on June 2nd 1881 at Urbana [Champaign co] Ohio where she was buried..."

[3125] Lawrence county OH, Mansfield PETERS, age 69, and Joseph PAYNE, age 68, residents of Proctorville, Lawrence co Oh: testified that Benjamin PAYNE was married to Martha J. MILLSTEAD in 1848.

Order for military tombstone.

Payne, Benjamin
Pvt. co. C, 48 th Regt.
Ohio Infy.
Cemetery Greenlawn,
at Portsmouth,
Scioto Co., Ohio.
Grave
Date of death Jan'y 11, 1896.
Headstone supplied by
W. H. Gross, Lee, Mass.
CONTRACT FEB'Y 24, 1896.

On last page is a copy of record at Central Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Dayton, Ohio.

Benjamin Payne

MILITARY HISTORY.

Time and Place of each Enlistment.	Rank.	Company and Regiment.	Time and Place of Discharge.	Cause of Discharge.	Kind and Degree of Disability.	When and Where Contracted.
<i>Feb 22 '64 Manfield O.</i>	<i>Plt</i>	<i>D 120 Ohio Infy Consolidated with</i>	<i>May 7 '66 Columbus O.</i>	<i>Gas Ordng.</i>	<i>Ing to ship</i>	<i>May '64 Snaggy Point La.</i>
<i>Fall of 64</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>114 Ohio Infy</i>				
<i>Transferred to</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>48 Battalion Ohio Infy.</i>				

DOMESTIC HISTORY.

WHERE BORN.	Age.	Height.	Complex- ion.	Color of Eyes.	Color of Hair.	OCCUPATION.	Residence Subsequent to Discharge.	Married or Single.	P. O. Address of Nearest Relative.
<i>Ta. Shurman Co.</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>dark</i>	<i>blue</i>	<i>gray</i>	<i>Farm</i>	<i>Newton, O.</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Son Chas. Payne Springfield O.</i>

HOME HISTORY.

Rate of Pension.	Date of Admission and Re-admission.	Condition of Re-admission.	Date of Discharge.	Cause of Discharge.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death.
	<i>Jan 10 1885</i>		<i>January 12, 1891</i>	<i>A. C. 2, G. O. 1.</i>		

GENERAL REMARKS.

PAPERS *Quarterly Examination* Not required Since Feb'y 1887

Admission Paper, /

Army Discharge, /

Certificate of Service,

Pension Certificate,

EFFECTS.

Labor Money, \$

Pension Money, \$

Personal, Appraised at \$, sold for \$

Total, \$

How Disposed of,