

Company K, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

DEWITT, David* 28 Sept 1862 David E DEWITT

Private David Dewitt was age 20 when he entered service. He was captured 21 Jan 1863 at Skipper's Landing, Mississippi; died 17 Mar 1863 while a prisoner of war. No burial information in the Roll of Honor.

[In Company K there were two soldiers who were taken prisoner near Napoleon Ark. on or about 21 Jan 1863. It seems that after leaving the battle at Arkansas Post, there was a decision to cut through the peninsula at Beulah Bend where the Arkansas river and the Mississippi come together. The Rebels were able to fire on boats going past there. The cut was done. **Pvt David Dewitt and Charles Shott** must have been on shore there at that time. I also wondered where they were held prisoner. Charles Schott said in pension records that Dewitt died a prisoner at Jackson, MS. That makes sense since Jackson would have been a convenient place to send those prisoners. So Schott survived but there is a conflict on the date that Dewitt died. Best guess is April or May 1863.

Interestingly, because of that cut in the peninsula, gradually Napoleon and Wellington Arkansas both were flooded by the Mississippi and no longer exist.

I found out that there was an army hospital in the capital building there at Jackson MS. It could be that Dewitt was in that hospital when he died. Sherman, after the second battle against Jackson MS, did not have that building burned. Two reasons, there was a Mason's organization that used that building [he was a Mason] and second that it housed that hospital.]

Father: Benjamin DEWIT

Mother:???Arma/Anna ????

Birth: <1836> OH

Marriage: Jane STEELE, 2 Jan 1856, Bellevue, Eaton Co MI

Death: 17 Mar 1863 while a prisoner of war, Jackson MS

Cemetery: Unknown.

Not on Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865

Not on Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960

Not on U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962

Pension Index: David E DEWITT, K 120th OH Inf : widow Jane Dewitt in 1863 Sep 28, Application 34570, Certificate 61688, minor guardian Jane Dewitt in 1867 Apr 16, no state given, Application 145785, Certificate 121485.

1850 Census, Richmond Twp, Huron Co OH, Dwelling 897, Family 920: Benjamin DEWIT, age 56 NY, farmer; Arma, age 44 NY; Catty J, age 23 OH; Rosana, age 22 OH; George W, age 18 OH, farmer; Nancy M, age 15 OH; David E, age 13 OH; Margaret J, age 11 OH; Mary A, age 8 OH; Charles, age 6 OH; Leah, age 3 OH; Henry, 3 months OH.

2 Jan 1856, David DEWIT, age 20, married Jane STEEL, age 18, at the home of George W. DEWIT in Bellevue [Eaton Co MI] They were residents of Michigan at the time. In 1860 census, Benjamin DEWIT is living in Convis, Calhoun Co MI, Dwelling 1531, Family 1427: Benjamin DEWITT, age 73 NY, farmer; Anna, age 34 NY; George E, age 27 OH, farm laborer; Jane, age 25 OH; Rosanna, age 23 OH; Nancy, age 21 OH; Leah, age 19 OH; Henry, age 17 OH; David, age 15 OH. [In 1870 Census, George W. with wife Susan, Alwilda and Martha and father, Benjamin, are living in Ligonier, Noble co IN.]

1860 Census, Cold Water Village, Branch Co MI, Dwelling 177, Family 186: David DEWITT, age 24 OH, laborer; Jane, age 22 NY; Margaret J, age 2 MI; Nancy JENNINGS, age 10 OH; John MANNING, age 23 Ireland, laborer; James McKINER, age 28 Scotland, laborer; Margaret McKINER, age 23 Ireland.

Jane Dewitt, of Crawford Co Ohio, widow of David E. Dewitt on pension record dated 30 Sep 1863. But in 1866 she remarried in Michigan. Married Benjamin F. Perkins of Barry Co MI, 1 June 1866 Jane DEWIT married Benjamin H. PERKINS at Bellevue, Eaton Co MI on 1 June 1866.

Widow and child: 1870 Census, Thornapple, Barry Co MI, Dwelling 115, Family 112: Benjamin F PERKINS, age 30 OH, farmer; Jane, age 32 NY; Margaret DEWITT, age 12 MI; Sarah GREBB, age 29 OH, domestic help; Elizabet GREBB, age 10 IN; Arletta GREBB, age one IN; John PERKINS, age 24 OH, farm laborer.

Have not found in 1880.

Pension records sent by Debbie Ferdetta:

Paper, 1 Mar 1872, showed that David had a child named Margaret J. She had a guardian named Benjamin F. Perkins, but the paper was asking him to be suspended as there were proceedings to have him removed with very good reason for doing so. Very good was underlined. It was signed by S C Prindle, Judge of Probate, Hastings, Barry Co, Michigan. [0478 - 0479]

Mrs. Jane Perkins [widow of the soldier], resident of Thornapple Twp, Barry Co MI, testified that Margaret Jane was born 8 June 1858. That she, Jane, married Benjamin F. PERKINS at Bellevue, Eaton Co MI, 1 June 1866. [0481 - 0482]

Marriage, 2 Jan 1856, David DEWIT, age 20, married Jane STEEL, age 18, at the home of George W. DEWIT in Bellevue [Eaton Co MI]. Both were residents of Calhoun county. Present were George W. DEWIT and Susan DEWIT. [0488]

David was captured near Napoleon Arkansas according to the Adjutant General's Office, 8 Dec 1863. [Note: Napoleon AR was destroyed by a flood in 1874. It had been the county seat of Desha County on the Mississippi river banks.

Evidence for me that widow Jane married Benjamin F. Perkins 1 June 1866. Jane Perkins of Barry Co Michigan was guardian for minor child of David E. Dewitt, who died at Jackson Miss 17 Mar 1863.

Jane Dewitt, of Crawford Co Ohio, widow of David E. Dewitt on pension record dated 30 Sep 1863.

Charles SCHOTT, of this company, must have been a prisoner along with David Dewitt of this company. On 27 July 1864 he swore to a statement that he was present at the hospital at the time of the death of David E. Dewitt at Jackson Mississippi on or about 15 Apr 1864. David died of Dysentery or flux while in the hands of the enemy. Schott's statement was given at MORGANZA LA on 27 July 1864.

George and Rachael HEATH, husband and wife, testified that Margaret Jane was the only child of David Dewitt. Margaret Jane was born 8 June 1858 at Prairie Ronde, Kalamazoo Co MI. Rachel HEATH is the sister of Jane Perkins whose maiden name was Jane STEELE. [0488]

Jane Dewitt, in 1863, was living in Crawford Co OH. PO Wellersville, OH. [0491]

Daughter Margaret was born 8 June 1858 in Crawford Co OH. [place not correct] She and her mother were living in Bellvue, Eaton county MI on 1 Sep 1866. Witnessed by Morris STEELE and Catharine GILLESPIE of Thornapple, Barry Co MI. [0493]

[0497-8] 7 Sept 1862. Jane DEWITT was age 25, a resident of Wellersville, Crawford Co OH. Alfred DEWITT and William SCOTT, also of Wellersville, were witnesses.

[0501] Sgt Shannon CLEMENTS testified that David E. DEWITT and Charles SHOTT were both taken prisoner by the enemy near Napleon Arkansas on or about 21 January 1863. Charles returned some time in November and reported that David died about 5 May 1863.

[0503] Jane DEWIT married Benjamin H. PERKINS at Bellevue, Eaton Co MI on 1 June 1866. Perkins, age 25, and Jane, age 28, were both of Plymouth. Witnesses were G. W. STEEL and Jacob STEEL, both of Bellevue MI.

[0513 - 4] Jane said that Margaret was born at Little Prairie Ronde, Van Buren Co MI. and that she and David had only lived at that place about one month and was little acquainted in that community. They moved away about 1 Aug and went to Bellevue, Eaton Co MI. Dr. Hutchinson and a neighbor were present at the birth of Margaret. Jane believed that the doctor had gone into the Army and had died there. She mentions a family Bible.

[0515] Mrs. Catherine GILLASPIE was Jane's sister.