

Company A, 120th OVI



Photo Credit: Susie Holderfield

MACKEY, John D.* 23 Aug 1862
John D. Mackey was age 20 when he entered service. He was promoted from private to Sergt. Major on 15 Mar 1863. See Field and Staff page. He was promoted to Sergt. Major from private 15 Mar 1863; from Sergt. Major to 1st

Lieutenant 1 Aug 1863; died 21 Sept, 1864. [Also listed in [Company B](#) and [Field and Staff](#).] The Roll of Honor lists John D. Mackey, a 1st Lieutenant in Co. B, who died 21 Sept 1864. John D has a stone marker at Wooster Cemetery with his family. Twins Lille and Lulu are also buried there. John D has a footstone to the left of the main stone. There are no dates on John D's stone. I put his stone into the photo of the main stone as an insert. The other photo shows John's stone to the left of the large stone. Also note that there was no flag holder at John D's stone. Lot 143 Section 3 Grave 1

Father: David MACKEY

Mother: Martha MCKEE

Birth: 9 Sep 1840 OH [ancestry.com]

Marriage: none found

Death: 21 Sept, 1864, Plain Twp, Wayne Co OH.

Cemetery: Wooster Cemetery, Wayne Co OH, Lot 143 Section 3 Grave 1

Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: John D MACKEY, 1st Sergeant, 120th OH Inf, 21 Sep 1864, place not given, cause not given.

Pension Information: John D. MACKEY, Sgt-Maj, and A 120th OH Inf. Mother, Martha MACKEY, filed 27 Sep 1890, Application 448149, Certificate 299529, filed in Ohio and his father, David MACKEY, filed 15 Dec 1900, Application 731449, Certificate 509513, filed in Ohio.

1850 Census Plain Township, Wayne County OH, page 362: David MACKEY, age 33 Ireland, farmer; Martha, age 31 PA; Mary J, age 11 OH; John D, age 9 OH; Christiani [female] age 6 OH; George E, age 2 OH. [Note: Wayne County Probate Court record: David MACKEY married MARTHA MCKEE on 14 Sep 1837 in Wayne County OH.]

1860 Census Plain Township, Wayne County OH, page 265: David MACKEY, age 60 born Ireland, a farmer; Martha, age 39 PA; John, age 19 born OH, a farmer; Mary, age 21 OH, a teacher of common school; Catherine, age 14 OH; Elliot?? age 11 OH; Elizabeth, age 9 OH; Robert M, age 7 OH; Irvine S, age 5 OH; unnamed, one month old, born OH.

Republished in Wooster Republican, 1 Dec 1870, page 1. [Died 21 Sep 1864]

In Memorium of Lieut. John D. Mackey.

....."First Lieutenant John D. Mackey, was a native of Wayne county, where his parents now reside. He was known and recognized as an exemplary young man, possessing sterling qualities of character. He was just entering upon his twenty-fourth year when the destroyer seized him, and his loss is sincerely lamented by

a wide circle of friends and kindred. We knew him from earlier childhood and always found him the embodiment of kind and gentlemanly virtues. As a soldier, his valor and exceedingly ardent attachment to the Union, were manifest and frequently complimented. He enlisted as a private in Captain Downing's Company, in the 3rd of August, 1862, and served in that capacity until the 15th of April, 1863. He was then appointed Sergeant Major of the Regiment, and occupied that position until he obtained his commission as First Lieutenant, which was in November of the same year. On his final return home – not as he, or his friends anticipated to receive the irrevocable discharge of the grave – he was acting as Adjutant of the Regiment. So prompt was he in the performance of his duty and so eager to be the true soldier, he frequently exposed himself when in bad health, and in this way, no doubt precipitated his doom and departure. He considered no service or sacrifice too great for his country, and often on his death bed was heard to say, 'If the salvation of the country demands my life, I will give it willingly.'

Until the time he was compelled to leave, he had taken part in all the engagements in which the 120th had ever participated. Were he living, Chickasaw, Arkansas Post, Champion Hill, Grand Gulf, Black River Bridge, Jackson, Vicksburg, &c, would be green and fresh in his memory. On the 10th of May, 1863, [actually the 19th May at Vicksburg] he was struck on the shoulder by a fragment of a shell which caused him to retire from the field, being unable to use his sword. In the disastrous affair of last May, owing to the bad management of the commander of the Gulf Department, when the boat was attacked, by the rebels, his Company was ordered to the hurricane deck of the vessel, a place of extreme danger. The consternation was frightful, as may well be imagined, and while there was running to and fro, some leaping overboard, &c., the Lieutenant staid [sic] at his post until he had an opportunity of getting out on the opposite shore, which he accomplished by means of a plank from the boat. And here we believe to be the secret of his sickness and subsequent death. After abandoning the vessel, he tarried with one of his wounded comrades until he lost sight of his fleeing and panic stricken companions, when he began pursuit, exerting himself too violently to over take those who were struggling to escape. Losing his blankets, having to sleep on the cold ground, with no covering but the broad, cheerless canopy of the sky, overtaking his energies that he might avoid the *living death of the prisoner*, he contracted a cold which settled on his lungs and resulted fatally.

He came home, and after a protracted illness of ten weeks, he expired on the 21st of last September. | He bore his sufferings like the calm, patient hero and martyr. At times they were poignant and intense, but he endured them all with imperturbable resignation with the exception of brief intervals of delirium, his mind retained its clearness and brilliancy until the last breath was drawn and the throbbing heart was still. For several weeks after his return, he imagined he would recover, yet hope and fear, 'pale trembling daughters of mortality,' kept up painful alteration. When the unwelcome story had to be told, that death was imminent and inevitable, he received it calmly and silently, waiting the last transition without a shudder. This spirit of composure and christian submission was apparent throughout his whole illness, and existed to the very hour when the fettered soul 'raving round the walls of her clay tenement,' burst her shackles of flesh and bones, and winged her unseen flight to Deity.

May his memory ever remain fresh in the hearts of his family made desolate by his early death. He gave his young, precious life for his country, and patriotism like an anguished maiden, will weep and linger at his grave, when she builds the Mausoleum of her heroes. We leave him in the keeping of his God, in whom he trusted.

The funeral cortege has returned; the grave is satisfied; the eye of the weeper begins to brighten; the flag for which he died floats proudly o'er a nation destined soon to be wholly and gloriously free. Now let love and memory do their noble work.

'Green be the turf above him.' B. D.

1870 Plain Twp, Wayne County, OH, page 307: David, age 66 Ireland, farmer; Martha, age 51 PA; Christian? [f], age 24 OH, seamstress; Elliott age 22 OH, farmer; Lizzie, age 18 OH; Robert, age 16 OH, works on fram; Irvin, age 14 OH; Lillie and Lulu, both age 7 OH.

1880 Census, Wooster, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 9, Family 9: David, age 76 IRE, farmer, parents born Ireland; Martha, wife, age 61 PA, parents born PA; Robert, son, age 25 OH, married; Ervin, son, single, age 23 OH; Lillie, daughter, age 16 OH; Lulu, daughter, age 16 OH. Lillie and Lulu have "scrofula" which is tuberculosis of the lymph nodes.

Not on 1890 Veterans Schedule.

Father, 1900 Census, 134 North Main, Oberlin village, Russia Twp, Lorain Co OH, Dwelling 438, Family 474: David BEBOUT, age 60 OH, born Mar 1840, married 32 yrs, farmer, father born NJ, mother born PA; Mary J, wife, age 61 OH, born Sep 1838, married 32 yrs, 5 children/5 still living, father born Ireland, mother born PA;

Marthe V, daughter, age 28 OH, single, born Sep 1871; Maud, daughter, age 25 OH, single, born Jan 1875; Earnest, son, age 19 OH, single, born Nov 1880; a list of boarders; David MACKEY, father in law, age 95 Ireland, widowed, born Aug 1805, parents born Ireland, came to US in 1826, has been in US 74 yrs, naturalized, no occupation listed. [David died 13 Jan 1903 in Apple Creek OH.]

Brother, Family Search, Death record in Ohio: Ervin S MACKEY died 18 March 1916 at Wooster, Wayne Co OH. He was born 12 March 1857 in OH. His father was David MACKEY, born Ireland. His mother was Martha McKEE, born PA. Burial Wooster Cem. Informant, Scott MACKEY of Wooster.

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2015 120researcher@gmail.com