

Chapter 28 Back Home

Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphans Home, Xenia, Ohio

William C. McCracken, son of William McCracken, Co D 120th OVI, was a resident at the Home in Xenia. In 1878 after he turned 16 he was discharged from the Home as an inmate but was still employed there. The soldier's pensions papers said that the son was a very intelligent boy. By 1900 William C. was working in Columbus as a stationary engineer. By the 1930 census he is the Superintendent of the Ohio State University Maintenance, and in the 1940 census is listed as the buildings and grounds engineer at The Ohio State University.

Frank and Minnie Dunham, children of James W. Dunham, Co B 120th OVI, also lived at the Home in Xenia.

Clark and Adolf Yarnell, sons of Elijah Yarnell, Co C 120th OVI, were listed as school pupils at the Home in 1900.

[Pension papers] Matthew Morrow was a corporal in Company I who had spent time in prison camp at Tyler, Texas. He died in 1885. This is a letter written by his widow, Jennie Morrow. Spelling left as it was:

Denver Colorado, 1019 South 9th St, **May 21st / 91**

The Hon Benjamin Harrison

President of the United States.

Dear Sir

On the 12th day of this month I stood in the crowded street to see the vast concorse [sic] of the people pay their respects to the representative Ruler of this worlds greatest Government. I am the widow of Mathew A. Morrow. He was pensioned for disease contracted in the service of this government in the line of his duty of which disease he died. He died more than six years ago. I spent thousands of dollars of my estate nursing him, the governments viligent [sic] soldier, untill[sic] his wonderful manhood, worn to voice went out in death. Over six years ago I made my application to be placed upon the rolls as his widow, from that day to this in sickness, in trials, in losses and disapointment [sic]. I have furnished proofs looked for and wanted to get the pension that was the promise of the Government to the fighting lines of loyal men in blue, on those fearful fields of death, and in prison pens. My husband was thirteen months in prison at Tyler Texes [sic]. General you have not forgotten [sic] the private soldiers who made your command and other commands in all those grand armies. Mr. President as I seen you I did not believe you would forget his widow growing old, unable to do the labor of former years. Deceased. Absolute want nerves me to address you Mr. President. Once too General of the marching and fighting men. Commander in chief of those people that you have seen from one ocean to the other. Who at your command would protect the lands over which you have passed from wrong and outrage. No word (but from the assured justness of your great heart would induce me) to write you. For I am only one of the millions that seen you to honor you in the long and tiresome journey. Comes nearer to call you General I am your humble petitioner. I pray you for justice the fullfillment [sic], of the Governments promise to the widow. As well of the private soldier.

Very Respectfully

Subscribed Mrs. Jennie Morrow

Application for Pension No 332.732

address. No 1019 South 9th st

Denver Colo.

[[The National Tribune, 8 March 1906, page 3](#), column 4] available at [Chronicling America](#)

"Return of the Rebel Flags. Comrade J. Bear, Co. H, 120th Ohio, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, writes to enter his protest against the return of the rebel flags to the men who carried them in the war of the rebellion. He says he protests 'without hesitation or equivocation,' and characterizes the return of the captured flags as 'a gross insult to all old soldiers who have one drop of patriotic American blood coursing through their

veins, and who so freely shed their blood to maintain the life of the Nation in the '60s.'

The writer says he has in his possession a brass spear-head that he took from a rebel flagstaff in Texas, and he adds that 'perhaps Congress would like to vote to send it, too, across Mason and Dixon's line.'

Comrade Bear says he will never get tired of reading The National Tribune, and adds, 'long may it wave all over this land of the free and home of the brave.'

'The two charts you sent me,' he concludes, 'came in fine shape. I had them framed, and gave one to each of my boys as birthday presents, and I am glad to inform you they were appreciated by the receivers.' "

This may be the charts that Mr. Bear ordered.

[The National Tribune, 13 Sep 1906, page 6](#): available at [Chronicling America](#)

[Army Charts](#)

"Each Chart contains a careful epitome of the histories of that particular Army and of its component Corps. Also, a chronology of its more important battles and engagements. A great deal of accurate history is compressed into a comparatively small space, where it can be read at a glance. It has fine half-tone portraits of Army commanders and Corps Commanders set upon a beautiful embellishment of the National Colors. It is printed artistically and upon fine, heavy paper, suitable for framing."

"These Charts are not for sale. Any comrade renewing his subscription, or any new subscriber, sending \$1 in payment for a year's subscription, may have his choice of any one of the eight charts as a premium.

State plainly what Chart is wanted, and give full name, company, regiment and corps, in order that the certificate may be filled in correctly. If your regiment served in more than one Army, you can, if you prefer, leave the selection of the proper Chart to the national tribune. In this case you will get the Chart of the Army in which your regiment saw the most service. The Charts are mailed in stout tubes--not folded."

The choice of Army for the 120th OVI would have been the [Army of the Tennessee](#).

[[The National Tribune, 23 Dec 1909, page 8](#), column 3] available at [Chronicling America](#).

"The Ex-Prisoners. Editor National Tribune: It does seem to me that the time has now come when some definite and certain action should be taken by Congress to in some measure recompense the ex-Union prisoners for their sacrifices and sufferings. Ever since they returned, some 43 years ago, they have been at a disadvantage because of those trials and disabilities endured behind the enemy's stockades.

The country was saved, the Flag was maintained and great prosperity has come to the land; but, as a rule, the ex-prisoners have had very little share in this. May we not justly appeal to Congress and a grateful people for some compensation to those who suffered all but death and have since borne patiently the trial of their faith and patriotism? Surely it is time they should be remembered. ___ W. E. Montgomery, Co. A, 120th Ohio, Macon, Mo."



[Sketch from the book *Battles and Commanders of the Civil War : a graphic and pictorial history* prepared directly from the government records in the Departments of War and Statistics, by Frank Leslie and Marcus J. Wright, 1902 and 1906, page 445]



My drawing from the 120th OVI flag with the words *Always Remember* added.
The original flag is housed at the [Ohio History Center](#) in Columbus, OH.

End Chapter 28

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