

## Harvey Capps History

Benjamin Harvey Capps

Andrew and Mary Jane were the parents of nine children: Minnie, Laura, Douglas Wilford, George, Charles M., William B. "Willie", Allie, Harry, and Lillie Colene. Andrew C. Capps died August 3, 1937 at Dale in Hamilton County, Illinois from chronic nephritis at the age of 88 years, 8 months and 4 days. He is buried at Braden Valley Cemetery in Hamilton County.

There is little indication of where Harvey Capps lived prior to his marriage. On January 27th, 1854 he obtained a license to marry Sarah Ann Risley. The ceremony was performed on January 30, 1854 according to the marriage record books in Franklin County, Illinois. Sarah was the daughter of Jeremiah and Margaret Blocher Risley. She was born August 20, 1832 in Cannelton, Indiana. Harvey and Sarah probably lived in the small community known as Snow Flake in northern Franklin County after their marriage. At sometime they apparently crossed the county line into Jefferson County, Illinois and settled in Moores Prairie Township for the remainder of their lives.

Harvey and Sarah raised a family of nine children. Apparently at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, Harvey was farming and had three young daughters. He joined the army on the 13th day of August 1862 at Jefferson County (Illinois) in Company G, 110 Regiment of Illinois Volunteers to serve three years during the war. He was mustered in at Camp Anna on September 11, 1862. At sometime during his stint in the army, he was transferred to Company D, with the same Regiment. The Adjutant General's Report gives a summary of the history of the 110th Infantry. It states in part: "The One Hundred and Tenth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry was organized at Anna, Illinois by Colonel Thomas S. Casey in September 1862 and was mustered into service September 11, 1862.

On September 23, 1862 the Regiment was ordered to Louisville, Kentucky and there was assigned to the Nineteenth [sic] Brigade, comprised of the Forty-first Ohio, Ninth Indiana, Sixth and Twenty-seventh Kentucky Regiments under the command of Col. W.B. Hazen.

September 27, 1862 they left Louisville in pursuit of Rebel General Bragg, who had followed General Buell from Nashville, Tennessee to Salt River, about forty miles from Louisville. The march was by the way of Bardstown and Perryville, when the Regiment with the Brigade was in line of battle by noon on October 8, and not more than two miles from where the battle of Perryville was being fought. An advance was not ordered and the Regiment lay in line of battle during the night and advanced the next morning only to find that during the night Bragg had retreated and escaped.

On October 11 the Brigade encountered the enemy a mile in front of Danville. A line of battle was formed and the rebels were driven through and beyond the town. This was the first skirmish in which the Regiment was engaged. They remained near Danville until October 14 and then moved toward Crab Orchard in pursuit of the enemy.

On October 16 not far from Mr. Vernon, Kentucky, the rear of the enemy was encountered drawn up in line of battle. The Nineteenth [sic] Brigade advanced in line of battle and drove the rebels from their positions.

The Regiment was constantly skirmishing on the 15th and 16th. On the night of the 16th they camped at Big Rock Castle Creek, moving the next day to Wild Cat. On the 18th and 19th they encamped at Petman's Cross roads, within forty-five [sic] miles of Cumberland Gap. From there they returned to Camp Wild Cat. They then moved by way of Somerset, Columbia, Glasgow and Gallatin to Nashville, Tennessee where they encamped on November 7, 1862.

Of the campaign in Southeastern Kentucky, the Brigade Commander Hazen in his report said: "It is proper to remark that during the entire campaign, although we were destitute of many of the comforts usual in campaigns, without tents, often without sufficient food, through the most inclement weather, marches of almost unprecedented length, I have never heard a murmur, and have not to report a condition of health better than ever before known in the Brigade, and a state of thorough discipline in the highest degree satisfactory."

On December 26 the Regiment marched toward Murfreesboro. At Lavergne they again came up with the rebels and a considerable skirmish ensued.

On December 29 the regiment was within three miles of Murfreesboro, and on the 30th in line of battle."

It was during the fighting at Stones River, Tennessee that Harvey Capps was wounded on December 31, 1862. There are two accounts of what occurred on that day given by comrades [sic] as proof of injury for a pension that Harvey Capps was later to receive. James Montgomery states: "...on or about the 1st day of January, 1863, at Stones River in the State of Tennessee (Harvey Capps) did receive a shell wound in his left side, which knocked him down and mashed his canteen. I was within four feet of him when he was wounded. He was not fit for much duty after he was hit."

Another statement signed by John M. Burgin states: "...on or about the 1st day of January, 1863, at Stones River in the State of Tennessee, (Harvey Capps) did receive a shell wound in his left side. I was within two feet of said Harvey Capps when the shell knocked him. It hit and mashed his canteen and knocked him down, and took all of his "tricks" off of him. He was with us after that, but never was able for much duty. He was a

good soldier before he was knocked down by the shell, but he was not of much account afterwards.”

In the battle of Stones River the Regiment loss in killed and wounded was very heavy. On the night of the 31st the Regiment slept where it had fought during the day in the extreme advance until the early dawn of the first day in January, when it took a position on the bank of Stone [sic] River.

Of the conduct of the Regiment in the battle of Stone [sic] River the Brigade Commander said: “It displayed that fearless courage one admires in veterans. Such heroic service rendered their country this day, such heroic and daring valor justly entitles these men to the profound respect of the people and the country.”

After the battle of Stone [sic] River the Regiment, with the remainder of the Brigade, was posted at Readyville, ten miles from Murfreesboro, on the extreme left of the army.

It is noted in Harvey’s military record that he was absent without leave between March 6 and 22, 1863. It has been suggested that he might have gone home to put in his crop. While this may be true, another theory might be that he went home to see his first son, John Wesley, who was born November 25, 1862. At any rate he apparently returned to duty on March 23. On April 2, breaking camp at 11:00 p.m. the Regiment participated in the attack on the rebels at Woodbury, and at daylight on the 3rd, captured one picket post consisting of thirty mounted remels [sic] with their horses. One of the brothers captured was a brother of one of the assistant surgeons of the Regiment. He was a mere boy, 17 years old, who after being properly advised was sent back home to his mother.

In May, 1863 the Regiment being much reduced because of losses in battles and sickness and discharged, was consolidated. After that they were engaged in battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and battles around Atlanta, and in the “March to the Sea”, then in the march north through the Carolina’s and was at the surrender of General Johnston’s Army. They marched from there to Washington and participated in the grand review of General Sherman’s Army.

Harvey Capps was mustered out of the army on June 8, 1865 at Washington, D.C. The injury he received at the Battle of Stones River was one he apparently carried to his grave. He applied for and finally received a pension of \$4.00 per month beginning in March, 1881.

As for Harvey Capps’ physical appearance, his military service record gives a brief description. At age 26 his height was 5 feet 9 inches, fair complexion, light hair and blue eyes. These are the physical attributes of most of the Capps [sic] descendents. [sic]

Harvey and Sarah (apparently called Sally by her family and friends) were the parents of eight children. Minerva Jane was apparently the eldest. She first married Philip Belt on June 26, 1872 in Jefferson County, Illinois. Whether this marriage ended in divorce or whether Philip Belt died is not known; however, Minerva later married Paiden Lowery. According to the dates on her grave marker at Sugar Camp Cemetery in southern Jefferson County, she died May 23, 1894.

Mary Catherine was born July 25, 1857. Little is known about Mary Catherine other than she married John Huffstutler.

Martha was born February 13, 1860. She married a McClure.

John Wesley was born November 25, 1862 at Snow Flake, Illinois. He was the first son and was born while his father was serving in the Civil War. On March 14, 1889 he married Mary Ellen Lovin in Franklin County, Illinois [end of file]