

John Grossmann Military Records

37th Indiana Infantry

Family History

[beginning is missing] that "John Grossmann, a Civil War soldier, Henry Grossmann and Anna Grossmann are buried in Cliff Hill (Cemetery), Versailles. No stones, except govt. stone for John, Co. A 37th Ind. Inf'. Using a survey of the Cemetery recently completed by the town of Versailles, I was able to locate John's monument. It was small, worn and difficult to read. I am guessing the headstone is located next to his parents who were buried without monuments. This would not have been unusual as Swiss custom dictates an interment only occupies space for twenty-five years. The Swiss belief is after that, there is no-one around who cares. Any remains are then removed, ground up, and spread on the fields. The monument will be offered to any surviving relatives or also destroyed.

John Grossmann's headstone, in the Cliff Hill Cemetery, was obviously supplied by the government. During a trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., I found the original records. The information concerning the headstone was found in the following microfilm file;

Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans. C.a. 1879 - 1903

M1845 R011 8

Headstone supplied by Gross Brothers, June 9, 1888. What was also discovered was that John was wounded in action at the Battle of Stone's [sic] River on December 31, 1862, possibly captured by the Confederate Army and died a few days later on January 8, 1863. At the time, it was my belief that there was a good possibility he was probably interred in the National Cemetery at the Stones River battlefield site. It was very uncommon for soldiers other than officers to be disinterred and relocated to family burial sites. Additionally, at that time, hospitals were where you went to die. If John had a belly wound or limb amputation, death would only be days away due to the unsanitary conditions and lack of nursing care. There were also a huge number of unknown soldiers after this battle. Many who were in the care of the hospital were just forgotten due to the pressure of a huge number of casualties. Add to this is the fact the monument was placed 25 years after his death.

To verify this theory, I visited the Stone's [sic] river National Cemetery. It was established in 1864 and contains more than 6,100 Union burials - with 2,562 not being identified. Most of the Confederate dead were taken to their home towns or the nearest

southern community. Some, however, were buried in a mass grave south of the town of Murfreesboro and later reinterred in another mass grave in the Evergreen Cemetery. John Grossmann was not among the known dead. Violet had made the following annotation - "This is odd as two letters written the same day say he is alive, but the latter that he is ill."

From a Civil War letter, page 464 in the "Toph burial sites. "Almost 21 killed or wounded. John Grossmann was among the killed". Violet had made the following annotation - "This is odd as two letters written the same day say he is alive, but the latter that he is ill."

2. From a March 1, 1863 Civil War letter by W.H.H. Gookins

"I heard there was a large congregation at Sgt. John Grossman's funeral, when he reached home. I helped take him up, he was buried. He had been dead a month from the day we took him up. We sent him to Nashville and Joe Wetzler was there. Sgt. Firth (Luke Firth, also of the 37th) went with him to Nashville.

There was some numbering confusion as to the origin of this entry. An answer to an early inquiry about a "Grossman" ancestor referenced page 1498. I finally found the actual quote on page 1503 of the retyped version (1457 of the old version).

So, the mystery was solved. I would say that John Grossmann and his family must have been well thought of as he is one of the few enlisted men I am aware was relocated home after burial.

I am including some of the original records found in the National Archives. Also I have tried to summarize this important battle focusing on the activities of the 37th. There is a huge volume of information I have researched. Much of the summary has been taken from the official guide fo [sic] the Stones River national Battlefield and discussions with the Park Ranger. Serious students of the Civil War should review the actual records. Of more interest are two letters I've reproduced here written by members of the 37th Indiana Infantry as they were in some of the hardest fighting. It is unfortunate that much of the official discussion around this battle revolved around General Alexander M. McCook, one of the famous "Fighting McCooks" of Ohio and other "political" figures such as Philip Sheridan. McCook an inadequate commander at best, not liked by his troops and made considerable mistakes at Stone's [sic] River. McCook was as invisible as Sheridan was ubiquitous. Instead of helping his division commandars [sic], McCook drifted aimlessly about. Arguably, the brunt of the hard fighting, at least on December 31st, was born as much by the troops under the command of General

James S. Negley, which included the 37th Indiana, as were those under General Phillip Sheridan. Both these troops occupied an area known as "The Slaughter Pen".

I have scanned portions of a map supplied by the National Park Service titled "Stone's [sic] River National Battlefield, Troop Movement Maps" They give a good although truncated view as to the location and movement of the 37th Indiana on December 31, 1862. It is my guess that John Grossmann was wounded and captured between 11:00 AM and noon during the confusion surrounding McCooks [sic] retreat, as the Union right flank collapsed and the apex of the Union line, held by Sheridan and Negley, was pushed back as they ran out of ammunition.

Company Muster-in Roll Form October 1861
G 37 Ind.

John Grossman [sic]

Corpl [sic], Capt. Ward's Co., 37 Reg't [sic] Ind. Inf. [see footnote below]

Age 18 years.

Appears on Company Muster-in Roll of the organization named above. Roll dated Lawrenceburg Ind. Oct. 15, 1861.

Muster-in to date Oct 15, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept. 18, 1861.

Where Lawrenceburgh

Period [blank] years [crossed out] During the war

Bounty paid \$[blank]; due \$[blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: This organization subsequently became Co. A, 22 Reg't [sic] Ind. Inf.]

Book mark: [blank]

E.H. Lipscombe

Copyist.

Company Descriptive Book Form
G 37 Ind.

John Grossman [sic]

[blank], Co. A, 37 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Company Descriptive Book of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 18 years; height 6 feet ½ inches,

Complexion light

Eyes blue; hair light

Where born Brienz Switzerland

Occupation Clerk

ENLISTMENT.

When Aug 15, 1861.

Where Ripley Co.

By whom [illegible] Ward; term During the war y'rs. [sic]

Remarks: Died Jan. 8/63 of wounds rec'd in action at Stone [sic] River Dec. 31/62.

Poe

Copyist.

Prisoner of War Record

MEMORANDUM FROM PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS.

(This blank is to be used only in the arrangement of said records.)

[Note: The information transcribed below is from a table with the following columns: NAME.; RANK.; ORGANIZATION. No. of Reg't. [sic].; State.; Area of Service.; Co.; INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM – Records of -; Vol.; Page.; Vol.; Page.; The information will be written in a line with semi-colons between the various columns.]

Grossman [sic] Jno [sic]; Sgt; 37; Ind; [blank]; A; Mis Roll [illegible]; name; 736; [blank]; [blank]

Captured at Murfreesboro Tenn [sic], Dec 31, 1862, confined at Richmond, Va., [blank]

Admitted to Hospital at [blank] where he died [blank], 186[blank], of [blank]

paroled at Murfreesboro Tenn. Dec. 31, 1862; reported at Camp Parole, Md., [blank], 186[blank].

Copied by WWP

Henry Grossmann

John's brother Henry enlisted on September 8, 1862 in Company E of the 83rd Indiana Infantry. He mustered out June 2, 1865 after participating in the grand review at Washington DC.

Company Muster-in Roll Form for September 1862

G 83 Ind.

Henry Grossman [sic]

Pvt, Capt. Loyd's Co. 83 Reg't [sic] Indiana Inf. [see first footnote below]

Age 22 years.

Appears on Company Muster-in Roll of the organization named above. Roll dated Lawrenceburgh Ind. Sept 9, 1862.

Muster-in to date Sept. 9, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Aug. 20, 186[blank] [see second footnote below]

Where Versailles [see second footnote below]

Period 3 years [see second footnote below]

Bounty paid \$25; due \$[blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: This organization subsequently became Co, [illegible] 80 Reg't [sic] Ind. Inf.]

[footnote: illegible]

Book mark: [blank]

Cisco

Copyist.

Company Descriptive Book Form
G 83 Ind.

Henry Grossman [sic]

[blank], Co E, 83 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Company Descriptive Book of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 22 years; height 5 feet 11 inches.

Complexion Lt

Eyes Blue; hair Lt

Where born Switzerland

Occupation farmer

ENLISTMENT.

When Aug, 186[blank].

Where Versailles

By whom R.W. Loyd; term 3 y'rs. [sic]

Remarks: [blank]

Crittenden

Copyist.

Company Muster-out Roll June 1865
G 83 Ind.

Henry Grossman [sic]

Pvt, Co. B., 83 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Age 22 years.

Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll dated Near Washington DC June 21, 1865.

Muster-out to date June 20, 1865.

Last paid to Dec. 31, 1863.

Clothing account:

Last settled Aug 31, 1863; drawn since \$8.31

Due soldier \$[blank]; due U.S. \$[blank]

Am't [sic] for cloth'g [sic] in kind or money adv'd [sic] \$[blank]

Due U.S. for arms, equipments [sic], etc., %[blank]

Bounty paid \$25.00; due \$75.00

Remarks: [blank]

Book mark: [blank]

[illegible signature]

Copyist.

[image: cemetery with John Grossman's gravestone marked]

[image: photo of a daguerreotype of John Grossmann with caption: Corporal, Co. A., 37th Indiana Infantry b. ca 1842 Brienz, Switzerland. Parents were Henri and Anna Grossmann. Brother of Margaretha Fluck, nee Grossmann. Buried in Cliff Himm Cemetery, Versailles, Indiana.]