

Barnard, John Gross

May 19, 1815-May 14, 1882

American

Soldier, military officer, author

Had inherited deafness, leaving him hard of hearing. Born in Sheffield, Massachusetts; graduated U.S. Military Academy, 1833; served in the Army Corps of Engineers during the Mexican-American War (rank of Major) and in the Civil War (Major-General). Wrote many books on military engineering and military history.

Reference: *Dictionary of American biography*, vol.1, p.626-627.

Question: Who wrote many books on military engineering and military history?

Berkeley, William Meade

July 4, 1838-June 2, 1900

American

Teacher, soldier, military

Born deaf; graduated from the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. Served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, being wounded in action. Worked at the Staunton (VA) *Spectator* newspaper both before and after the Civil War. Teacher at the Virginia School, 1872-1900.

Reference: *Notable deaf persons*, p.195-196; *CAID proceedings*, 16th, p.310-11.

Question: Who worked at the Staunton (VA) *Spectator* newspaper both before and after the Civil War?

Blount, John

fl. 1865

American

Soldier, military, teacher

Graduated from the Kentucky School for the Deaf. Served in the Union Army (state militia) during the Civil War, then became a teacher at the Kentucky School. His son was William Jacobs Blount (*q.v.*).

Reference: *Digest of the deaf*, Nov. 1939, p.24.

Question: Who became a teacher at the Kentucky School ?

Chamberlain, William Martin

July 13, 1832-Feb. 4, 1895

American

Soldier, military, newspaper editor, teacher

Born in South Reading, Massachusetts; deafened by measles at either 5 or 8; student at the American School from ages 10 to 14. At various times, was a sailor, carpenter, shoemaker, printer, newspaper editor, and teacher (the latter from 1875, at the Central New York School, Rome). Also managed to fake hearing and talk his way into the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War, but his deafness was discovered during combat and he was discharged.

Reference: *Notable deaf persons*, p.11-12; *Gallaudet encyclopedia*, vol.2 p.171; *The frat*, vol.35 no.4, Nov. 1937, p.3.

Question: Who managed to fake hearing and talk his way into the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War, but his deafness was discovered during combat and he was discharged?

Chamberlayne, Hartwell Macon

Feb. 5, 1836-March 29, 1905

American

Teacher, soldier

Born deaf in Richmond, VA; teacher at the Virginia School; served without injury in the Confederate Army in the infantry, cavalry, and artillery; died at Staunton, VA. At the Battle of Newmarket, he ran into James Jennings (*q.v.*), an opposing Union soldier and prisoner-of-war who was also deaf.

References: *Notable deaf persons*, p.37-38; *The frat*, Feb. 1938; *CAID proceedings*, 17th, p.176-177.

Question: Who ran into James Jennings (*q.v.*), an opposing Union soldier and prisoner-of-war who was also deaf ?

English, Henry Clay

Oct. 5, 1838-Jan. 9, 1889

American

Teacher, soldier, military

Born in Pike County, MO and deafened at an early age. Attended the Missouri Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and the Illinois School for the deaf, completing the latter in 1860. Appointed a teacher in the Louisiana State School for the deaf until the school was forced to close its doors in 1862 because of the U.S. Civil War. He enlisted in the Confederate army and served through the end of the war. When the Louisiana School reopened in 1866, he resumed teaching there until moving to teach at the Missouri Institution. He remained there until his death.

Reference: *CAID proceedings*, 12th, p.336-337.

Question: Who was a teacher in the Louisiana State School for the deaf until the school was forced to close its doors in 1862 because of the U.S. Civil War?

Fischer, G.E.

July 16, 1838-?

American

Businessman, sailor, military

Late-deafened. Born on his father's ship at sea; went to sea himself at age 10 as a cabin boy, rising to first mate of a clipper ship. When the Civil War broke out, joined the Union Navy. Lost his hearing in 1863 from "ship fever" and reassigned to shore duty until the end of the war. Took a position as steward and diver on his brother-in-law's ship postwar until 1879, when an accident damaged his health. Eventually moved to Omaha, NE and opened a wholesaling business. Married Angeline Ashby Fuller (*q. v.*)

Reference: *Representative deaf persons* [first edition].

Question: Who was born on his father's ship at sea and when the Civil War broke out, joined the Union Navy?

George, James Goodloe

Sept. 8, 1825-May 2, 1876

American

Editor, teacher, soldier, military

Deafened at age 6 by scarlet fever; held various positions, including printer, teacher (at the Missouri and Kentucky Schools), editor, and bookkeeper. Was an enlisted private in the Unionist home guards during the U.S. Civil War; died at Danville, KY.

References: *Notable deaf persons*, p.25-27; *Gallaudet encyclopedia*, vol.2 p.171; *The frat*, Aug. 1938, p.3; *American annals of the deaf*, vol.21 no.3, July 1876, p.195.

Question: Who was deafened at age 6 by scarlet fever and was an enlisted private in the Unionist home guards during the U.S. Civil War?

Jennings, James

fl. 1864

American

Soldier, military

Although deaf, served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. When he was captured at the Battle of Newmarket (Va.), he met Hartwell M. Chamberlayne, a deaf Confederate soldier whom he had known in New York City before the war.

Reference: *The frat*, Feb. 1939, p.3.

Question: Who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War and while captured, met Hartwell M. Chamberlayne, a deaf Confederate soldier whom he had known in New York City before the war?

King, Robert Heber

March 12, 1840-?

American

Soldier?, military, insurance agent

Born at Lexington, KY and attended the Kentucky Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, graduating in 1859. Served in the Army during and after the American Civil War, but it is not clear whether he actually served as a soldier or only in a civilian support position. He served several generals and other high-ranking officers until 1871, when he was furloughed due to cuts in the size of the Army. After a short time in business, he went into the insurance business, in which he was very successful. Also served as a notary public and as a director of the Kentucky School. Married Belle Beard.

References: *Representative deaf persons* [first edition], p.78-79; *Peeps into the deaf world*, p.184-185; *Benefits of education to the deaf*, p.13; *Representative deaf persons* [second edition], p.93-95.

Question: Who went into the insurance business, in which he was very successful ?

M'Farland, James H.

July 7, 1829-Dec. 12, 1901

American

Soldier, military

Born deaf at Louisville, MO; student at the Illinois and Missouri Schools for the deaf, 1857 to sometime in the 1860s. During the American Civil War, was a dispatch carrier for the Confederate army; post-war, held various jobs.

Reference: *CAID proceedings*, 16th, p.325.

Question: Who was a dispatch carrier for the Confederate army?

Oppenheimer, Benedict

fl. 1865

American

Soldier

Not only deaf from childhood scarlet fever, but one of the very few Southern Jewish soldiers to join the Confederate Army during the U.S. Civil War, joining in Tennessee. After the war, he used to tell stories in sign language or pencil and paper about how his military company always picked him to fire the cannon because he was already deaf anyway.

Reference: *The Jewish Confederates*.

Question: Who was always picked to fire the cannon because he was already deaf anyway?

Simpson, William

1842?-?

American

Soldier, military, farmer

Lost his hearing gradually beginning in childhood; retained enough hearing to fool the military examiners and join the Union Army at the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War. After the war, inherited the family farm, making his two deaf brothers, Delos A. and James A., work on the same basis as the hired hands.

Reference: *Notable deaf persons*, p.153.

Questions: Who fooled military examiners and joined the Union Army?

Yeager, John H.

fl. 1865

American

Soldier, military

Graduate of the Kentucky School for the Deaf. Served in the Union Army (state militia) during the American Civil War.

Reference: *Digest of the deaf*, Nov. 1939, p.24.

Question: Who was a Union Army soldier that graduated from the Kentucky School for the Deaf?

Levi Bodine

- Bodine was slave to a harsh white master. After emancipation, he stayed with the master but was still badly mistreated, which eventually pushed him to kill his master. He was tried for murder.

His story is told in: Jackson, Peter, *Deaf Murder Casebook*. Winsford, Cheshire, UK: Cox & Jackson, 2000, p.37-40.

Question: Who killed their master and was tried for murder?

James Good

- Good was a deaf servant, also a former slave, who was so faithful to his former masters that he suffered fatal burns while trying to save their family heirlooms from a fire. He was buried in the white family's cemetery vault.

"Faithful Deaf Negro Servant," in *Silent Worker*, vol. 26 no. 9, June 1914, p.172. This brief article is available online through <http://www.aladin.wrhc.org/gsd/collect/gasw/gasw.shtml>.

Question: Who was a deaf servant that suffered fatal burns while trying to save their family heirlooms from a fire?

Harvey Prindle Peet [II]

- A native of Cape Palmas, Africa (in present-day Liberia), he was captured as a young boy and sold into slavery in England. Freed by missionaries, he was named by them after the superintendent of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, brought to New York, and attended the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb for a few years. He was sometimes called "Black Harvey" to distinguish him from his namesake. He claimed to have lost one arm in a railroad collision during the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889, and in 1890 married Elizabeth Cooper. In 1892, he was employed in a New York City store. He also had an older deaf brother, Wia.

Braddock, Guilbert C., *Notable Deaf Persons*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet College Alumni Association, 1975, p.108.

Deaf-Mutes Journal, vol. 21 no. 49, December 8, 1892, p.4, column 1.

Question: Who was after the superintendent of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb?

Wia

- Harvey Peet had an older deaf brother, known as Wia (or Wah) or "Little Wia", who was also brought to America by missionaries. There is no indication in the known records that Wia was ever a slave, but it seems likely that he was one in England, since his brother was also captured in Africa at about the same time, sold into slavery in England, and later also brought to America. Wia entered the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in the fall of 1857, but died less than a year later from illness.

There is a one-line reference to Wia's death in the *American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb*, vol. X, no.3, July 1858, p.191: "DEATHS: At the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, June 2nd, of consumption [tuberculosis], WIA, an African deaf-mute, a native of Cape Palmas, arrived from Africa last fall."

Question: Who spent less than a year at the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb?