

17 September 1884 DECLARATION FOR ORIGINAL INVAILD PERSON

On this 17th day of September A.D., one thousand eight hundred and eighty four, personally appeared before me, Clerk of the county Court, a court of record within and for the county and State aforesaid Andrew Gstach aged 49 years, a resident of Goshen, Oldham County State of Kentucky who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Andrew Gstach who was enrolled on ____ day of February, 1862 in Company "M" of the 1st Regiment of Ohio Light Arty commanded by Capt. Schultz and was honorably Discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio on the ____ day of February, 1865 that his personal description is as follows: Age 49 years height 5 feet 7 ¾ inches; complexion Fair; eyes gray hair brown. ...he was engaged in the battle [of Chickamauga] and while firing off the cannon (he was no. 4) a piece of the cap struck his left eye injuring it severely form the effects of which he has entirely lost the sight of his left eye and also during the battle of Stone River, Tenn. Dec 31/62 he was wounded by a piece of shell on the right leg splintering the shin bone he is very much disabled from performing manual labor through the effects of said injuries.

That he was treated in hospitals as follows: was treated in field hospital in January 1863 and Stone River for about one week was not treated in hospital for wound of his eye but was treated by the Surgeon of the 32nd Ind. Vols.

That since leaving the service this applicant has resided in the counties of Jefferson & Oldham in the State of Kentucky and his occupation has been that of a dairyman.

4 October 1884 REQUEST made for records of the WAR DEPARTMENT for Andrew Gstach. While serving in Co. "In" 1st Regt. Ohio Light Art. He was disabled by shell wound of the right led at battle of Stone River Tenn., 31 Dec. 1862; also by injury to left eye from firing cannon at Chickamauga, Ga., on Sept. 22 1863 and was treated in hospitals of which the names, locations, and dates of treatment are as follows; Field hospital, Stone River, for one week in Jan., 1863. Treated by surgeon of the 32 Ind. Vols. (*Statement made by Andrew Gstach*)

22 October 1884 ORIGINAL FOR A BOARD

We hereby certify that in compliance with the requirements of the law we have carefully examined this applicant who claims that while in the service of the United States at or near a place named "Stone River and Chickamauga, and while in line of duty, on ar about the day of January 1, Sept, 1862/63 he incurred shell wound of left leg and injury to eye and that in consequence thereof he is 5/8 disabled fir earning his substance by manual labor.

His pulse rate is 80 per minute; his respiration Lo; his temperature 98 5/10; his height is 5 feet 11 ¾ inches; he weights 162 pounds, and state that he is 49 years of age.

Touching the cause and degree of the disability for which he claims a pension, he makes the following statement: "My first ____ No 4 when I fired off the Cannon piece of Cap ____ in my left eye at Battle Chickamauga My eye became ____ until I lost- When the shell hit my leg if ____ out about time every change of the ____"

The examination reveals the following objective facts in support of his statements: On aut _____ bia is a acute dark pigmented two inches long ¾ inches wide oral ____ very thin and till imitable with a ____ cab at his lower extremely occasionally braking open _____ vein in _____ No difference in Mes _____ of legs.

Los of left eye nothing but st_____p left sight eye I _____ pathetically affected Vision _____ to one half _____ (or blinking)

He is, in our opinion entitled to a 1/8 rating for the disability caused by injury to leg, for that caused by loss of eye 1/2 the sum of which aggregates 5/8

19 November 1884 ...Andrew Gstach aged 49 years, a resident of the County of Oldham in the State of Kentucky. Post Office address is Goshen, County of Oldham State of Kentucky and states that when he first came home from the Army in Feb. 1865 he resided in Rolling Town, Jefferson County, Kentucky until November 1868 his Post Office address was Pee Vee Valley, Jefferson County, (now in Hopkins County) Kentucky for the first six months he was unable to do any work he was staying with his relations who were farming and when he became better and was able to do anything would assist them what he could was only able to do light jobs and not able to do that one fourth of the time. Then went to reside at Goshen, Oldham County, Ky. post office the same had a _____ of the dairy for Mr. Sam Snowden until April 1873 was now unable to do hard work only super intended the dairy my foot was then bad again and I had to quit and return to my relatives at Rolling town Ky. and remained with them until Oct 1874 for five months was not able to do anything and the balance of the time but little. I then I went back to Mr. Snowden at Goshen, Oldham County, Kentucky to superintended his dairy have been with him ever since in that capacity not being able to hard work about 1877 in the spring was laid up unable to do anything for about three months about the end of 1879 was again laid up for somewhere around seven months in 1883 in the spring was laid up for between two or three month. His right leg was injured at Battle of Stone River Tenn. In Jan/63 by a piece of shell splintering the shin bone was treated by the Surgeon of some Ind. Regt. does not remember his name for a month or six weeks then returned to duty and at Battle of Chickamauga Sep 22/63 while firing off a Cannon a piece of the cap struck his left eye injuring it severely it has grown worse and he has now lost the sight who was treated by some Doctor but does not know his name was treated since discharge by Dr. Duerson of Goshen Ky. until three years ago when the Dr. moved away and has since died. Since by Dr. Thompson of Goshen, Ky.

17 December 1884 ORIGINAL INVAILD CLAIM

Andrew Gstach P.O. Goshen, Oldham County, Ky. [Claim was] Rejected on the ground of Claimants failure after a reasonable time and due notification to furnish necessary evidence to establish the claim. (the above was stamped on the application) The claim was re reviewed on 5 January 1888

18 April 1885: response to above (4 October 1884) from SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT. ... that the name of the soldier in question does not appear on the following named records in file in the Office: "Records of wounded pertaining to the battle of Stone River Tenn. Dec 30/62 to Jan. 3/63, and of Chickamauga, Ga. Sept 19 & 20/63."

The following named records are not on file in this Office:

Field Hosp. Stone River, Tenn. bearing the case: Medical records of the 1st Ohio Lt Arty

or of the 5th M.I. Vet Vols. Medical records of the 31st Ind. Vols.

21 April 1885 STATEMENT FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERALS OFFICE

Andrew Gstach, a Pvt. Of Company M. 1st Regiment Ohio L. Arty. Volunteers, was enrolled on the 15 day of Sept. 1861 at Cincinnati Ohio. 3 years and is reported: On rolls to Dec 31, 61 presence or absence not stated. Returns prior to Nov 61 not on file. Returns for Nov. & Dec. 61 do not report him absent. Roll Jan & Feb 62 present same to Apr. 30 62. Rolls from Apr 30 to Oct 31. 62 not on file. Returns for that period not on file. Roll Nov. & Dec. 62 present, same to Oct 31. 64. Mustered out with Co. Dec. 13.64 Camp Dennison, Ohio. Return for Jan 63 does not report him absent. Regt. was in action Dec. 31.62 Stone River Tenn. Sept 19-20.63 at Chickamauga, Ga. Return for Sept. 63 not on file. Name Andrew Gstach not home.

Andrew Gstach Pvt. Co. "D" 5 US Vet Vols. was enrolled March 25 1865 at Cincinnati for 1 year.

Rolls from enrollment to Feb 28 1866 report him present.

He was mustered out with CO. March 31 1866 a Pvt. at New York City.

The records of this office furnished no evidence of alleged wound and injury.

Morning reports Co. D 5th US Vet Vols. show him Nov 30 65 duty to sick- Jan 29 '66 duty to amst - Feb 7 '66 amst to duty. (*not sure on amst could be asnst, for absent?*)

No Regimental hospital records (1st O. Lt Art or 5th US vet Vols.) Company morning reports prior to Nov '64 (1st O. Lt Art) nor company returns (1st O Lt. Art) on file.

22 April 1889 GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

from Louis Gephart [who in September 1891 did not remember anything in regard to the injuries or wounds of Andrew Gstach.]

State of Ohio, County of Montgomery: In the matter of Claim for pension of Andrew Gstach.

Louis Gephart aged 62 years, a resident of National Military Home in the County of Montgomery and State of Ohio.

Well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he remembers distinctly that the above mentioned soldier with whom he served during the late war in the same company and regiment-became disabled during their terms of service as follows: During the battle of Stone River, Tenn. and on the first day of January 1863 the above named soldier was wounded by a piece of a shell in the right leg, so that he was unable to do any duty for about 14 days afterwards.

Also: During the battle of Chickamauga Tenn. On the 26th day of November 1863 and during discharging the guns, a piece of a cap struck the Claimants left eye and injured the same very badly. That Affidavit would also state that the said Andrew Gstach had been a very strong-sound and able bodied man at the date of enlistment and was especially free from any disease or injury of his eyes; That shortly after the piece of cap had struck the Claimants left eye, the same became sore and much inflamed and that the sight of same became gradually more and more impaired, so that he was hardly able to see anything with same at date of his discharge from the service on or about Dec. 3 1864. That Affidavit would further state that he has seen the Claimant frequently after their discharge from the

service and until about in the year 1867 at and in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. Sometimes weekly and monthly and that he has always found him then in a worse condition, his eyelid being nearly closed up, so that he was not able to see anything at last.

22 April 1889 GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

of John Probasco [who in September 1891 did not remember the name of the man.]

State of Ohio, County of Montgomery: In the matter of Claim for pension of Andrew Gstach.

John Probasco aged 71 years, a resident of National Military Home in the County of Montgomery and State of Ohio.

Well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

That he has served with the above named Claimant in the same company and regiment and that he was well acquainted with him during their form of service. That the said Andrew Gstach was at date of his enlistment a strong-sound and able bodied man and remained so until about the first day of January 1863 when he was wounded during the battle of Stone River, Tenn. Jan 1, 1863 by a piece of a shell in the right leg. That Affidavit remembers also distinctly that the said Andrew Gstach was badly injured of left eye by a piece of a cap while engaged in the battle of Chickamauga, Tenn. November 26 1863. That the Affidavit remembers the above stated facts very plainly for the reason, that he was present when said Claimant was wounded and injured as above described.

That Affidavit remembers also that the Claimant sight of left eye became worse from time to time so that he could not re-enlist as a Veteran in the same organization.

1 July 1889 GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

State of Ohio, County of Montgomery

In the matter of Andrew Gstach late a Moulder in Co. "M" of the 1st Reg't of O Lt Art Vols, for original Pension. On this 1st day of July AD 1889, personally appeared before me, a Clerk of Court in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths John Deis aged 52 years, a resident of Dayton in the County of Montgomery and State of Ohio whose post office address is Dayton O and well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

I have been Orderly Sergeant of the above Co and Regt and know Mr. Andre Gstach who served in the Battery with me. I know well that his eye sight was good when he enlisted in the Battery that he was a good a faithful Soldier always ready to due his duty but I can't remember of him being hurt by a piece of cap or otherwise. He was at the Battle of Chickamauga and Stone River. I have seen him lately and his eye sight is not good.

DECLARATION FOR INVALID PENSION

5 August 1890

State of Kentucky

County of Jefferson

On this 5th day of August A.D., one thousand eight hundred and ninety, personally

appeared before me, Clerk of the county Court, a court of record within and for the county and State aforesaid Andrew Gstach aged 57 years, a resident of Goshen, Oldham County State of Kentucky who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Andrew Gstach who was enrolled on the 20th day of Nov 1861 in 1st Ohio Light and Battery M as private in the War of the Rebellion and served at least ninety days and was Honorably discharged at Camp Dennison Ohio on the 13 day of Feb 1861. That he is wholly unable to earn support by reason of total blindness of left eye and partial blindness of right eye, shell wound about 10 inches below knee on right leg.

Letter written by Andrew Gstach to the Commission of Pensions

Louisville, Ky. Aug 18, 1890

Hon. Commissioner of Pensions
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I was a volunteer in the late war, and served 3 years 2 months. In the beginning I served in Buells' army at Corinth [Mississippi]. We had gotten orders to join Grant's army but could not do so in as much as Grant had been repulsed before, but after 3 days and 2 nights march joined him at Savannah at the evening about 8 o'clock and in a short time after our arrival we returned Grants repulse near the river and now the battle having brought to him about 50,000 new. We came there from the point about 15 miles above Savannah. At that town on our march to that city with out rations as provisions for about 3 days at least.

During the battle of Shiloh a fight of about 3 or 4 days without rations n provisions. After the fight was [won] we had to follow the rebels to Chattanooga, on this road to Louisville which they came near taking.

The second battle we had was Stone River in January and staid there 3 days in December where rebels made a charge on us and broke the lines on the night of McCook's and the fight lasted about 4 days. From the last charge of the rebel army at Stone River we defeated them and they retreated to Atlanta and followed the rebels to the Tennessee River. The rebel army to Chattanooga but our division was ordered to forty miles below Chattanooga. To cut the rebels off from munitions then the rebels had to fall back to Chattanooga to reinforce them selves.

We faced the rebels before we got across the river. We crossed the river and two mountains in cause to the Raccoon Mountain and had a two days hard battle with them. Longstreet came with 20,000 men from Virginia in front of our Battery we in facing the Rebel army and defeated us and had to be reinforced in order to save us.

We had then to go to Atlanta: From the battle of Chattanooga we had to follow the rebels to Atlanta a long distance soon we brought the battle to a close. By General Sherman going behind the town shelling the place and cutting off all the efforts the rebels from any help about 10 miles we cut off all communications with them.

Our army fought the battle in the United States _____ by degrees. I ask the government of the Country for a pension which they do not design to grant.

I am almost totally blind and troubled with a shell wound in my right foot owing to my army service. I have given a description why I am entitled to a pension now if grant it all might but all I had said had been and can be proved and Justice demands that my claim be formally considered.

I have been living in the Country but I am now living 331 Washington St. bet. Floyd and Preston.

Hoping to hear from you soon

I am yours very truly,
Andrew Gstach

12 December 1890 GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

State of Kentucky County of Shelby, in the matter of Andrew Gstach
Charles Bodkin aged 27 years whose post office is Shelbyville, Shelby County, Kentucky.
That he has been well acquainted with Andrew Gstach the above named claimant for about three months- since he has been employed by Mr. Jno A. Middleton at this place that he knows said claimant is now entirely blind in his left eye that he also knows he has a wounded right leg for which he suffers severe pain and that he is also afflicted with Rheumatism- That the claimant has only been living in this County about three months and he did not know him prior to his coming here-That from affidavits knowledge of Claimants said disabilities that he believes he is incapacitated from hard labor at least 1/3 his time and he further believes that claimants said disabilities are not due to vicious habits and that they are of a permanent Character.

12 December 1890 NEIGHBORS' AFFIDAVIT

Charles O'Rourke ages 63 years, a resident of Louisville, Washington [Street] between Preston and Jackson, in the county of Jefferson and State of Kentucky.
That he has been well and personally acquainted with Andrew Gstach for 16 years and that he has labored with his as a hand-in many places during these years- at Goshen, Oldham County, Kentucky at Saul Snowdens for about 8 or 9 years and other places- at different times. Have been working for the past three months with him at Jno A. Middleton's at Shelbyville, Shelby Co. KY I can state that the said Gstach at the time I first became acquainted with him was almost blind in his left eye and that for the past 10 or 12 years he has been entirely blind in said left eye- Can also state that he has also a wound on right leg and that he had that wound when I first knew him and that he contracted said wound in the line of duty while a soldier in the late war as I have been always told by him and his family and can also state that he has suffered since I knew him first and until now from rheumatism causing aches and pains in his body and limbs. I think that said claimant has been _____ now incapacitated from hard labor about 1/2 his time and I believe that said disabilities are not due to vicious habits and that they are of a permanent character.

12 December 1890 PHYSICIANS AFFIDAVIT

R.D. Poutt MD age 31 years a resident of Shelbyville in the County of Shelby and State of Kentucky

1st Complete atrophy of left eye the ball is completely atrophied and covered by sight destroyed in that eye. It is probably due to some injury acquired some time since which penetrated the posterior chamber of eye. Total disability in that eye

2nd Di__ Inguinal hernia on left side only partially _____ cable

3rd Scar of old ulcer on right leg at present covered by thin skin but liable to reoccur My examination made today (Dec 12/90) and I don not think that any of his disabilities are due to any vicious habit of applicant and that they of a permanent character and that his is disabled 1/2 of manual labor.

22 September 1891 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REQUEST

Request made for knowledge of any wounds or injuries while in service. To John , Probasco and Louis Gephart both residing at the National Military Home in Montgomery, Ohio. John Probasco stated that he could not remember the name of the man. Louis Gephart stated that he did not remember anything in regard to the injuries or wounds of Andrew Gstach.

24 September 1891 RESPONSE made to COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS.

Alouis Gstach was not reported absent was in action of Stone River and Chickamauga The company and regiment was as follows. Jan 1 1863 Murfreesboro Tenn. Nov 26 1863 Chattanooga Tenn.

7 October 1891 SURGEONS CERTIFICATE

Andrew Gstach Post office Goshen, Oldham County, Kentucky

....that he is suffering from the following disability, incurred in the service, viz: Total blindness of the left eye by apiece of shell while firing off a cannon at battle of Chickamauga and ___ a shell wound of left leg at battle of Stone River and has a ___ of left side for 3 years.

Pulse rate, 68 respiration 18, temperature 98 height 5 feet 11 inches; weight 156 pounds age 57 years,

Left Eye

There is total loss of sight of left eye. The result of injury the globe much atrophied and deeply placed in its socket. And the anterior hemisphere is flattened. The cornea densely opaque and shriveled and the iris not to be seen. Vision right eye 20/40 -due to slight hypermotropie for which he wears proper glasses.

Shell Wound

Th ___ a ___ oval. Gl ___ non ___ I can si ___ on ___ and ___ of the leg ___ side of tibial f ___ der measuring 1 1/2 x 3/4 inches Said to be caused by a piece of shell-Superficial-No results.

Hernia

_____ a left oblique I _____ hernia non Sorotel protruding through _____
_____ for which he wears no truss. It is the size of a hens egg.

No other disability is found to exist.

ANDREW GSTACH/HENRY STACH AFFIDAVIT:

State of Kentucky County of Shelby

On this 15th day of April AD 1892, personally appeared before me a Notary Public in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths Andrew Gstach aged 57 years late Private Battery "M" Reg't of Ohio L.A. Vols., applicant for Original Act June 27, 1892 Pension No. 522806 a resident of Shelbyville County of Shelby State of Ky whose post office address is the same and well know to me to be reputable and entitled to credit , and who being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows:

In response to Department call of recent date that he incurred left (?) hernia on or about the 15 day of March 1889 while engaged in lifting a very heavy can of milk on the farm of Sam Snowden near Goshen, Oldham Co. KY where at that time he was engaged as a laborer. There was present at the time of incurrence one Albert Johnson a colored boy about 17 years of age who I later learned was sent to Anchorage KY Insane Asylum a short time later O left Goshen. He states that said hernia is not due in any wise to viscous habits and that to best of his knowledge and beliefs is permanent. He further states that he has not served in the Army or Navel service since discharge on March 31 1866. He further states that he enlisted first in Battery "M" 1st Ohio Light Artillery at Camp Denison, Ohio, Capt. Schultz and served about three years and was honorably discharged. That said discharge has been lost by fire. That afterward on the 25th of March 1865 he re-enlisted as a veteran in Co. "D" 5th Regt of US Veteran Vol. and that at the time of said enlisting his left eye was very sore from the effects of the wound of injury to sai incurred on or about Nov 26 1863 and was much inflamed but that he was accepted as a solider and served in Co "D" 5th Regt US Vet Vols. until discharged at New York City March 31 1866. (He files copy of said Discharge which is made part of this affidavit) He states that his left eye went out entirely about 7 years after discharge.

He also states that the correct way of spelling his name in his native language Andreus Gstach but that it is spelled in English in many different ways. He states that the reason he was not treated by the regimental surgeon for injury to wound of right leg and injury to left eye was because his injuries did not totally disable him and he did not want to leave his duty as long as he could possibly serve. He states that he did receive some treatment and medicines from the field hospital.

30 December 1892 Pension approved at \$12.00 per month commencing on 8 August 1890.

8 July 1893 request made for medical records.

11 July 1893 No medical records found.

23 March 1898 Reply made to the Department of Interior Bureau of Pensions

Request

SIR:

In forwarding to the pension agent the executed voucher for your next quarterly payment please favor me by returning this circular to him with replies to the questions enumerated below.

Very respectfully,
Commissioner

First Are you married? If so, please state your wife's full name and her maiden name.

Answer Yes Mary O'Rourke

Second When, where, and by whom were you married?

Answer, 1876 Apr 30 in Louisville Father Michael Power

Third, What record of marriage exists?

Answer Jefferson Co. Ky. Clerk office

Fourth Where you previously married? If so. Please state the name of your former wife and the date and place of her death or divorce.

Answer [*yes was written then crossed out*] No

Fifth Have you any children living? If so, please state their names and the dates of their birth

Answer yes	William	born 1877 Apr 18 th
	Joseph	" 1880 Oct 14
	Charles	" 1882 July 13
	John	" 1884 Mch 28
	Henry	" 1886 Feby 3

Signature by a X (mark)

21 July 1898 Reply made to the Department of Interior Bureau of Pensions

Request made 8 July 1898

SIR:

Will you kindly answer at your earliest convenience, the questions enumerated below? The information is requested for further use and it may be of great value to your family

Very respectfully,
Commissioner

No. 1. Are you married? If so, please state your wife's full name and her maiden name.

Answer Yes Mary O'Rourke

No. 2. When, where, and by whom were you married? Answer, Louisville KY. St. Paul's Church April 1876 Apr as well as December (?)

No. 3. What record of marriage exists? Answer Jefferson Co. Ky. Clerk office

No. 4. Where you previously married? If so. Please state the name of your former wife and the date and place of her death or divorce. Answer No

No. 5. Have you any children living? If so, please state their names and the dates of their birth Answer Henry in 14th year now.

Signature by a X (mark)

10 March 1904 Letter to the Commission from Paul E. Divine

Sir:

I have the honor to report, that Andrew Gestach late Pvt. Cp. M 1 Regiment Ohio Lt. Art. Pensioner, Certificate No. 839655, was admitted this Branch on the 8 day of March 1904 and to request that his name be transferred from the rolls of the Louisville, Ky Agency to the rolls of the Knoxville Agency at Knoxville, Tenn.

Respectfully yours,
Paul E. Divine
Treasurer

31 July 1906 POWER OF ATTORNEY Andrew appoints J.B. Cralle & Co. of Washington D.C. as his attorneys for his pension claim.

21 September 1906 Letter form Department of the Interior

Sirs:

You are informed that the above described claim for pension under the general law was rejected for failure to furnish the necessary evidence for nearly eighteen years and before any action can be had looking to reopening evidence to make out a prima-facie case must be supplied.

The evidence of origin heretofore offered is unsatisfactory.

Witness Louis Gephart does not remember anything about claimant having been wounded at battle of Stone River fist of January 1863 or receiving any injury November 1863 at battle of Chickamauga Ga. And witness John Probasco says he does not remember the claimant,

Very respectfully,

Commissioner

1 March 1907 DECLARATION FOR PENSION

...a foresaid Andrew Gestach who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he 73 years of age, and a resident of Louisville county of Jefferson, State of Kentucky.

... That his personal description at enlistment was as follows: Height 5 feet 7 inches; complexion, Fair; color of eyes, Gray; color of hair brown; that his occupation was a veteran soldier; that he was born February 13, 1834 at Germany.

That his several places of residence since leaving the service have been as follows: in Shelbyville KY from 1866 to 1878 and from 1878 always in Louisville Kentucky.

9 July 1907 Request for Claimants age at time of enlistment

11 July 1907 Response to above age 27

1 August 1907 Records Corrected

9 March 1907 Pension increased to \$15.00 effective 4 March 1907

Approved for Age over 70

Date of birth 13 February 1834

Age shown by evidence 73

13 March 1909 DECLARATION FOR PENSION [INCREASE]

Andrew Gestach

...declares he is 75 years of age

...that he was born February 13 1834 in Germany

...address 2035 Lytle Street, Louisville, Kentucky

(signed by Andrew)

20 March 1909 INCREASE ACT OF FEBRUARY 6, 1907

Andrew Gestach

Rate \$20.00 per month commencing March 20 1909

Approved Increase Age over 75

Pensioned at \$15.00 per month under Act February 6 1907

23 June 1911: Where born: Germany, Age at enlistment: about 23 bet. 23 & 24, Name under which served: Andrew Gstach, Date of enlistment: September 15 1861, Battery M 1 Ohio Lt Art., Date of discharge December 13 1864, Any prior or sub service: none Name of wife Undivorced Mary (O'Rourke) Any prior marriage none, Name of comrades John Diee Conkle. Personal description: hair white probably light, eyes blue 5'11"

17 May 1912 DECLARATION FOR INVALID PENSION

Andrew Gestach

...That he was born 13 day of February 1835, and is now 77 years of age. That he was granted Twenty Dollars per month now payable at the agency at Knoxville, Tennessee. That he herewith makes application for an increase of Pension under the provision of Act of May 11 1912. Signed with a mark.

17 May 1912 ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

That he is the indicted Andrew Gestach who served under the name of Andrew Gestach in Co. M 1st Ohio Artillery and Co. D 5 Reg US Vet Vol and was pensioned under Act of Feby 6 1907 at the rate of twenty Dollars per month.

That his last name was pronounced Gestock that after his discharged from the United States service his name became abbreviated "Stack" and he went by the name of Stock. That on April 30 1876 he was married to Mary O'Rourke at Louisville Ky. under the name of Henry Stack my full Baptismal name is Henry Andrew but I seldom used Henry and when I married I gave my name as Henry Stack having dropped the first syllable Ges for years before I married this was by working around many among strangers _____ the abbreviation Stack and when asked if I was Stack I said yes. I never spoke the English language plainly I was bout 15 yrs of age when I came to America.

HOW CAN THIS BE TRUE IF HE WAS MARRIED WHEN HE LEFT AUSTRIA?

20 May 1912 Reissue ACT OF MAY 11, 1912
2035 Lytle Street
Rate, \$30 per month, commencing May 20, 1912
Submitted for approval 18 Sept 1912
Length of pensionable service 4 years 3 months 6 days
Enlisted Sept 15, 1861; honorably discharged Dec 13, 1864
Enlisted March 25, 1865; honorably discharged March 31, 1866
Pensioned at \$20.00 per month under act of Feb. 6, 1907
Declaration filed May 20 1912
Age shown by evidence 77 years; date of birth alleged Feb 13, 1835
Claimant does not write.

21 May 1912 Letter from Andrew Gestach
Hon Commissioner of Pensions

Sir

I herewith file my affidavit to establish the fact that Henry Stack who was married to Mary O'Rourke and Andrew Gestach of Co. M 1st Ohio Artillery as one and the same if any further evidence is required kindly inform me as I would like her to have the matter settled while I live.

Very Respectfully,
Andrew X Gestach
(his mark)
2035 Lytle St., Louisville, Ky.

12 August 1912 Letter the Department of the Interior received from Andrew Gestach

Sir,

I wish to make an explanation in regard to difference in my name, My full correct name is Andrew Henry Gestach I served in Co. M first Ohio Lt, Art'y as Andrew Gestach, See Pension certificate no 839,655 After I came home from the Army and went to work I got to being called Stack instead of Gestach and having become accustomed and known as Henry Stack, I dropped the German name and Married Mary O'Rourke as Henry Stack, and my children are known by the name of Stack, among their friends, and these children were baptized as Stack not Gestach, having dropped the Ge, in my name, I wish to have my name corrected or an explanation made to prevent my wife having trouble in procuring a Pension if she should survive me. Kindly inform me as to what can be done on my part to have this satisfactorily explained.

Very Respectfully,
Andrew (his mark) Gestach

15 August 1912 Letter to Andrew Gestach from Department of the Interior

Sir;

In response to your communication without date, received the 12th instant, you are informed that testimony of at least two reliable witnesses should be filed with the papers in your case, for use in the event of your death, to show that Henry Stack, who married Mary O'Rourke, is identical with Andrew Gestach, the name under which you are pensioned.

Very respectfully,
J.L. Davenport,
Commissioner

23 August 1912 ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

... Annie Stone aged 52 years and whose post-office address is 2035 Lytle St. Louisville, Ky.

I have been acquainted with Andrew Gestach now known as Henry Stack in the year 1784. I knew that his correct name was Andrew Henry Gestach and at the time he was called "Stack" by his fellow workmen. He spoke broken English and accented the last syllable of his name so distinctly that it came to be pronounced Stack and as it was apparently easier and more pleasant he dropped the first syllable of his name He married Mary O'Rourke in my presence and gave his name Henry Stack: Her mother wanted the name corrected but the matter was dropped and the name Stack was kept as their correct name.

...Daniel O'Connell aged 61 years and whose post-office id 1727 Duncan St. Louisville, Ky.

I became acquainted with Andrew Gestach about the year 1872 in Henry County, Kentucky he was then a single man I know that he the gave his correct name as Gestach but was called Stack he then spoke broken English; and persons speaking the English language did not always get the Correct pronunciation of the name so he was called Stack. I know that the same Andrew Gestack married Mary O'Rourke in Louisville Ky. and they are now and have been married since there marriage living as husband and wife and are known by the name of Stack: I know that the said Henry Stack draws Pension as Andrew Gestack and the way he speaks his name the Ge is almost silent. I worked with him at one place and his name was recorded Stick and he did not correct it and he was called Stick which he never corrected these he seems ___ less to have his name ___ called.

10 February 1913 DECLARATION FOR WIDOWS PENSION

...Mary Stack aged fifty seven years, a resident of Louisville County of Jefferson State of Kentucky who, being duly sworn according to lae, makes the following declaration in order to obtain pension under the provisions of the ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED APRIL 19, 1908.

That she is a widow of Henry Andrew Stack who was enrolled under the name od Andrew Gestack as a Private in Co. M 1st Ohio Lt Arty D, 5 U.S. Vet. Inf. And honorably discharged March 31 1866 having served ninety days or more during the late war of the

rebellion. That the soldier was not in the MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE of the United States except as stated above see Invalid certificate No. 839655 Act of May 11, 1912

That she was married under the name of Mary Rourke to said soldier at Louisville KY, on the 30 day of April 1876 by Father Powers; that there was no legal barrier to the marriage; that she had not been previously married; that the soldier had not been previously married.

That the soldier died February 5, 1913 at Louisville, KY that she was not divorced from him, that she has not remarried since his death.

That the NAMES and DATES OF BIRTH of all the children of the soldier, noe living and under SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE are as follows:
No child under 16 years of age.

That she has not heretofore applied for pension. That she was married to the Soldier in Germany his name Henry Stock was misspelled Stack.

That her Post-Office address is 2035 Lytle St. Louisville, County of Jefferson, State of Kentucky.

(signed) Mary Stack

Included with above application
Death Certificate for Henry A. Stack
Sex Male Color White Married
Date of Birth Feb 13 1845
Age 68y 5days
Occupation None
Birthplace Australia
Name of Father Christopher Stack
Birthplace of Father Germany
Name of Mother Unknown
Birthplace of Mother Unknown
Informant Mrs. Henry Stack
Filed Feb 6 1913
Cause of Death Pulmonary Odema
Place of Burial or removal
St. Louis Feb. 7, 1913
Undertaker Dougherty & McElliott
1227 Market

Also included Marriage Certificate from the State of Kentucky

That heretofore, to wit: on the 19th day of April 1876 Henry Stack obtained from the Clerk of the County Court, within the State and County aforesaid, a license to marry Mary Rourke and that they were married by M. Power at Louisville, KY on the 30th day of April 1876 in the presence of Dennis McSweeny and Ann Rourke all of which

appears upon the Marriage Register on file in my office as Clerk of said Court.

(dated 10 February 1913)

Also included a statement from the current pastor of St. Michaels Church, 220 Brook St. Louisville, KY. dated 10 February 1913 stating that M. Power married Henry Stack and Mary Rourke on April 30 1876.

11 February 1913 ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

...Annie Stone aged 52 years, and whose post office address is No 2035 Lytle Street, Louisville Ky.

I have known the Claimant Mary Stack all of her life, She was not married prior to her marriage to Henry A. Stack, I saw them married, and know that the Henry Stack named in their marriage certificate and the Andrew Gestack that was pensioned on certificate No. 339633 and known as Henry A. Stack was one and the same person, he did not speak the English language plainly, and never took pains to either give his name correctly or to correct others in specking his name, in fact did not seem to care what he was called, I know that they lived together as husband and wife from the date of their marriage until his death and never divorced, I became acquainted with Henry A. Stack about the year 1874 or 1875, and knew him well until his death, his wife is my sister, we lived in the same house, and from this knowledge of him state that when he was discharged from the United States Service he went to work on farms in Kentucky, and was employed as a Dairyman, he worked in Woodford and Oldham Counties, and after they were married they went back to Oldham County where he had formerly worked for some time, I am sure that if he had been previously married I should have known or heard of it therefore state that he was not previously married.

11 February 1913 ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

...Daniel O'Connell aged 62 years, and whose post-office address is 3031 Portland Ave, Louisville KY

I became acquainted with Henry A. Stack in the year 1873 in Henry County, Kentucky he was working in the Neighborhood as a farm hand and dairy man, I know that he was then called Gestack and also called Stack he was called Henry, by his employers, he was a man that was really difficult to understand, in talking, he spoke indistinctly, when he said Gestack he sounded the last syllable with the broad A from my intimate acquaintance with the man from 1873 until his death, frequently working with him, I am sure that he was not married prior to his marring the claimant, he was not a man to have concealed a marriage, and if he had been previously married he would I believe have told me, he was a temperate man and a man of good character, he was one of these quiet inoffensive man that took but little interest in other people, went ahead and attended to his own affairs, he and the claimant were never divorced but lived together as husband and wife from the date of their marriage until his death, I did not know the claimant before she was married but from my later acquaintance with her and her own family I am sure she was not married prior to her marriage to Henry A. Stack

4 April 1913 WIDOW'S PENSION

Rate, \$12.00 per month, commencing February 13, 1913

Approved 4 April 1913: Admission under Act April 19, 1908

The soldier was pensioned at \$30.00 per month for age Act May 11, 1912

Enlisted September 15, 1861	Soldiers application filed 1884, 1890, 1909, 1912
... honorably disch'd December 13 1864	Cl't's app'n under other laws none
Reenlisted March 31, 1865	Former marriage of none
... honorably disch'd March 31, 1866	Death/Divorce of former none
Died, February 5, 1913	Cl't's marriage to soldier, April 30, 1876
Declaration filed February 13, 1913	Cl't not remarried, not divorced
Claimant does write	None, M.C.

15 April 1913 BOARD OF REVIEW

Claimant Mary widow of Andreas Gstach known as Henry Stack

Respectfully, returned to the chief of the Army & Navy Division for reference to the Chief of the Special Examination Division with a view to determine the identity of the claim and husband as the soldier of record and whether he was ever married prior to his marriage to the claimant April 30 1876 at which time according to his own allegations he was past 41 years old.

The explanation furnished as to change of soldiers name from Andrew Gestach to Henry Stack seems reasonable and would be readily accepted but for the fact that he was married to the claimant under the name of "Stack" as shown by copy of public record and of church record.

This fact in connection with the eye of the soldier and the fact that none of the witnesses ever heard of him before 1873 wonder seems to warrant the reference for special examination as ___ gestesh herein Order 12 Par 5 to be absent and a list of comrades shown accompanying papers.

17 April 1913 BOARD OF REVIEW

Claimant Widow

Soldier Andrew Gestach afterward Henry A. Stack

Respectfully, returned to Wm Harrington Rev Capt. Cases Section Proposed refinance for special examination not covered in the explanation made by soldier during his life time relative to his change of name seems to me quite satisfactory. There is no doubt in my mind as to his identity with the soldier of record. The War Dept. report dated July 11 1898 shows he was involved in his first service as Stack. I agree with the examiner that claim is ready for allowance.

18 July 1929 Letter written by Sallie T. Duke to The Bureau of Pensions

Gentlemen;

Mrs. Mary Stack, widow, Andrew Gestack, know as Henry A. Stack; Private Co. M. 1st, Regiment, Ohio Light Artillery and Co. D 5th Reg U. S. Veteran Infantry; now drawing \$30.00 per month pension which is mailed to Mrs. Stack from your office, wishes

to state that she will be 75 years of age August 10, 1929: was born August 10, 1854.

When the pensioner reaches the age of 75, the pension will be increased to \$40.00 per month so I am informed by Mrs. Stack.

The number of Mrs. Stack's pension certificate is 756.971. Act of April 19 1908.

Under act of Congress, by President May 1st, 1920 pension increased to \$30.00 per month; Signed,

G.M. Galtzobe, Comm. Pensions.
John Arten Payne, Secty.

(this information is from slip form #3-1129)

The writer wishes to say that if other information is necessary, you may write to her or address Mrs. Stack, whose address is #2035 Lytle St. Louisville, KY. (this of course you have)

Thanking you and am,

Very Respectfully,
Sallie T. Duke
Notary Public, Jeff. CO.KY.
Collr (?) House Fiscal Court
Lou. KY.

8 August 1929 Letter written by Sallie T. Duke to The Bureau of Pensions

Gentlemen;

Your Form letter 3-2546 (June, 1928) dated August 5th, came to Mrs. Mary Stack recently; in turn she has handed same to me for reply; which I beg to say that I am enclosing Certificate of Baptism of Mes. Mary Stack, dated August 13, 1854, which I trust is complete and will cover your request of Birth certificate.

Mary Stack widow of Andrew Gestach known as Henry A. Stack, was married (Maiden name) Mary O'Rourke was married to Andrew Gestach, on April 30th, 1876: The Bureau of Pensions has copy of Marriage Certificate, which was filed with them at Husbands death February 5th, 1913, if another is necessary at this time, Mrs. Stack will be glad to do so.

Mrs. Stack will be Seventy Five years of Age, Saturday August 10, 1929; A very lovely precious old lady.

Thanking you and if any other information is necessary write to me or Mrs. Stack and same will be taken care of early,

Yours Very Truly,
Sallie T. Duke

Notary Public, Jeff. CO. KY.

PS.

I am registering this letter as I do not want anything to happen to the Birth Certificate.

Enclosed with letter;

Certificate of Baptism Church of St. John, Louisville, KY. This is to Certify That Mary Child of Charles O'Rourke and Ann O'Rourke born in Louisville, KY on the 10th day of August 1854 was Baptized on the 13th day of August 1854. According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church by the Rev. D. Kelly the Sponsors being Edward Kelly and Catherine Kelly as appears form the Baptismal Register of this Church. Dated Aug. 7, 1929 (signed by) G.W. Schuhrman Pastor.

10 August 1929 WIDOWS PENSION

Request for increase in pension to \$40.00 per month

Approved 16 August 1929 Claimant was born on 10 August 1854

Claimant's marriage to soldier 30 April 1876

17 July 1930 Letter from Sallie T. Duke to Bureau if Pensions

Gentlemen;

Mrs. Mary Stack (Pensioner) died on Tuesday July 1st 1930; her pension voucher was returned by the postman on their route.

Mrs. Stack was the widow of Andrew Gestach; known as Henry A. Stack. She was receiving \$40.00 per month pension, under Act of May 1st 1920 (Number 756,791) marked (Increase) The original Pension Certificate was, Act of April 19 1908.

What ever money is due Mrs. Stack, will you kindly make check payable and mail to Chas. A. Stack, at 2035 Lytle St. Louisville, Ky., (Mrs, Stack's son) he being the proper one to whom same should be paid as he was appointed Administrator of the estate.

You may correspond with this son (Chas. A. Stach) at 2035 Lytle St., or you may address the writer, as I have taken care of Mrs. Stack;s pension and also that of her sister for some time.

Thanking you and hoping that the check will be forwarded at early date and oblige,

Yours very respectfully
Sallie T. Duke

17 July 1930 Drop Report Pensioner
Mary Stack

The name of the above described pensioner who was last paid at the rate of \$40.00 per

18

18

month to June 4, 1930 has this day been dropped from the roll because of death July 1, 1930

12 August 1930 APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Chas. A. Stack aged 50 years...is hereby made for reimbursement from the accrued pension for expenses paid in the last sickness and burial of Mary Stack (Mother) ...who DIED July 1st 1930 at Louisville, Kentucky and was buried at St. Louis Cemetery Louisville, Kentucky

7. Was there insurance? Answer yes

8. If so, give the name of each company in which a policy was carried and the amount in which each policy was written. \$421.00 Prudential Ins. Co. also Ladies of Knights Security

9. Who was the beneficiary named in each policy? Prudential divided between Chas. , William, John, & Joe Stack. Ladies K. of Sec. (Chas. A. & Wm Stack)

10. What was the relation of each beneficiary to pensioner? Sons

11. Were the premiums paid by the deceased pensioner, Yes money provided by Chas. & Wm Stack.

(Note on the bottom of the page states that John and Joe are married.)

(next page)

13. Is there an executor or administrator? Char. A. Stack, administrator

14. Did the deceased pensioner leave any money, real estate or, personal property? No

18. Did the pensioner leave an unendorsed pension check? No

19. What was your relation to the deceased pensioner? Son

20. Are you married? No

21. What was the cause of death? Myocarditis and Nephritis

22. When did the pensioner's last sickness begin? June 18 1930

23. From what date did the pensioner become so ill as to require regular and daily attendance of another person constantly until death? From June 8 1930

24. Give the name and post-office of each physician who attended the pensioner during last sickness Dr. P.H. Schwankhaus 28th & Greenwood Louisville ,Ky

25. State the name of the persons by whom the pensioner was nursed during the last sickness? Sister Mrs. Annie Stone and Son Chas. A. Stack

26. Where did pensioner live during last sickness? 2035 Lytle St.

Additional Information for above

Also appeared Mrs. Anna Stone and Mrs. Barbara Weixler

1. Did pensioner leave a widow or a minor child under age of sixteen years surviving?

2. When did the pensioner die July 1st 1930

3. Did pensioner leave any property? No

4. Our means of knowledge of the above statements made by us are: We knew the deceased pensioner for ____ years and as sister and friend

Mrs. Anna Stone (Life) Mrs. Weixler (30 years)

From what date did the pensioner require the regular and daily attendance of another person June 8th 1930 -to July 1st 1930

15 September 1930 Letter from Widows Division to Charles Stack

Dear Sir:

In your claim for reimbursement in the case of Mary Stack, you should furnish itemized bills from the attending physician, druggist, undertaker, and cemetery. Each bill should contain the pensioner's name, and a statement over the signature of the creditor, showing by whom paid, or if unpaid, that you are held responsible for payment.

The enclosed form 3-2014 should be signed by Mrs. Anna Stone and returned to this Bureau with the other evidence.

You should furnish a statement showing the exact amount received from Prudential Life Insurance Company and from Ladies of the Knights of Security.

Very truly yours,

E.W. Morgan
Acting Commissioner

20 October 1930 Letter to Widow Division from Sallie T. Duke

Gentlemen;

In reply to your favor of the 15th, of September, (1930) beg to say that I am enclosing you herewith, your Form 3-2014 signed by Annie Stone, as requested. The receipted bill of D.J. Dougherty and Son; The receipted bill of Dr. Paul H. Scheankhaus and also the memorandum of the amount received from Prudential Ins. Co. and the Ladies of Knight Security. Will say further that Mr. Chas. Stack advises me that the drugs used during his mother's illness, were purchased from different drug stores and paid for at the time of purchased from different drug stores and paid for at the time of purchase.

Trusting that this will be what you want, however if other information is necessary, I will be glad to furnish you.

Hoping to hear soon and remain,

Yours Very Truly
Sallie T. Duke
Notary Public, Jeff. Co. Ky.

7 January 1931 Letter from Widows Division to Charles Stack

Dear Sir:

In your claim for reimbursement in the case of Mary Stack, you should furnish a statement under oath, giving the total amount paid by you and William Stack in premiums on the insurance carried by the pensioner.

You should furnish also a statement showing the assets left by the pensioner, which made the appointment of an administrator necessary.

Very truly yours,

E. W. Morgan
Acting Commissioner

3 February 1931 Letter to Veterans Administration form Sallie T. Duke

Gentlemen;

In reply to your letter of January 7th, reference to the above correspondence, I wish to say the deceased (Mary Stack) boarded these two sons, Chas and William she in turn would use a part of this money to pay her insurance; It would be impossible for them to determine the amount of insurance that was paid by each of them. It is the opinion or judgment of the writer, that when these sons paid their board to their mother, and she out of this money paid her insurance, they (these sons) did not meet this insurance; however, Mr. Chas. A. Stack, meet all the expenses in the last illness and death of his mother; all these receipted bills were mailed to you (registered) which I believe is proof that Chas. A. Stack is entitled to what might be due his mother.

Information

Trusting that this may help and that Mr. Chas. Stack will hear from you at an early date,

Very Respectfully,
Sallie T. Duke
Notary Public, Jeff. Co. Ky

28 March 1931 REIMBURSEMENT

Rate \$40.00 Last paid June 4, 1930 at \$40.00
Date of death July 1, 1930 Accrued pension 0

Amounts claimed

Physician's bills	\$54.00
Medicine	\$20.00
Undertaker's bill	\$288.10
Totals	\$362.10

Deductions

Insurance	\$421.04
Death benefits	\$487.35
Totals	\$908.39

Approved for rejection, Pensioner left assets sufficient to meet the expenses of the last sickness and burial.

1 April 1931 Letter from Widow Division to Charles Stack

Dear Sir:

Your claim for reimbursement in the case of Mary Stack is rejected on the ground that the pensioner left assets (industrial insurance \$421.04, death benefits \$487.35; total \$908.39) sufficient to meet the expense of the last sickness and burial, alleged to have been \$362.10.

The accrued pension cannot, under such circumstances, be paid to anyone for any purpose.

Very truly yours

E. W. Morgan
Acting Commissioner

29 April 1931 Letter to United States Dept. of the Interior Bureau of Pensions from Sallie T. Duke

Gentlemen;

In reply to your letter addressed to Mr. Charles A. Stack, 2935 Lytle, Louisville, KY. Ref (Widow Division, Wid. C 756971 Henry A. Stack M 1 Ohio L.A.) Date, April 1st, 1931.

Mr. Stack asked that I write you to say, that he was not asking for reimbursement of any thing that he paid out for death or sickness for his mother (Mary Stack) but, Mrs. Stack died on July 1st, 1930 and when her voucher was delivered to them, it was returned to the Postman; she was lying a corpse or had just been buried, when the voucher containing her check came and as I say, was handed back to the Postman and in turn returned to you. This is what Mr. Chas. Stack feels he is entitled to, the check that came for the month of June 1930 and was delivered July 3rd or 4th 1930 and returned to you.

Please advise whether or not this money is paid to any one up to the date of the person's death and oblige,