

Texas 26 <texas26@gmail.com>
To: Jim_B_Lewis@nps.gov

Fri, Aug 30, 2013 at 10:40 AM

Hello,

I submitted the attached photo to the Stones River Facebook page and was asked to provide information regarding Private Martin Wiggins.

Private Martin B. Wiggins. 1828-1863

My Great Great Grandfather Martin B. Wiggins, a Mohegan Indian, was born on the Brothertown Reservation in Brothertown, Oneida, New York in 1828. He was the son of Elizabeth Paul (1812-1861) and Ezekiel Wiggins (1805-1864).

Martin was a direct descendant of Rev. Samson Occum (1723-1792), a member of the Mohegan Indian nation and a descendant of Mohegan Sachem, Uncas (1598-1683). Reverend Occum, an ordained Presbyterian minister, was the first Native American to publish his writings in English, and also helped found several settlements, including the Brothertown Indians. Rev. Occum was also a founder of Dartmouth. (I can provide additional information if requested).

The Brothertown Tribe left Oneida New York in 1831 and relocated to Calumet County Wisconsin. The tribal members were granted U.S. citizenship and the right to own property in Wisconsin in exchange for forfeiting the federal recognition of the Brothertown Tribe. (I can provide more details if requested).

Martin Wiggins married Mary Rachel Doxtator Davy on Aug 29, 1850 in Calumet County, Wisconsin. They were the parents of two children, Sampson Augustus Wiggins born 1850 and Raymona Loretta Wiggins born 1853.

Martin was a farmer, as was his father before him, in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, a small community where the Brothertown members lived peacefully. Martin's wife, Mary Rachel, died September 11, 1857, at the age of 21, leaving Martin a widower with two children ages 4 and 7.

Martin remarried on January 21, 1861 to Sarah Ann Reed in Calumet county Wisconsin.

Less than six month later, Martin Wiggins enlisted on August 15, 1862. He was described in his military record (page 23) as being 32 years old, 5'7" tall, black eyes and black hair. He was also described by his commanding officer Captain Rudolph J. Weisbrod as being of "dark Indian descent".

Private Wiggins mustered in at Oshkosh, Wisconsin Sept. 5, 1862 in Company E of the 21st Wisconsin under Captain H.M. Gibbs.

He died in Murfreesboro, Rutherford county, Tennessee on January 29, 1963 in the base hospital. His cause of death was most likely typhoid fever but two other causes were also listed in his service record, a severe cold and the hiccups. His children were ages 9 and 12 at the time of his death. Sarah Ann Wiggins, their step mother cared for Raymona, age 9, for approx. 18 months however Sampson, age 12, did not remain with her. Sampson petitioned the Probate Court to have Ansel Jones, an attorney, be appointed as the guardian for his minor sister, his petition was granted.

Martins cousins, Eli, Hiram. Ira and Leander Wiggins also served during the Civil War.

I hope this will be helpful. I was informed that Martin Wiggins is the only Native American to have died at Stones River.

My mother Donna Wiggins (1924-2000) was the daughter of Sampson Augustus Wiggins, Jr.

The attached photo is of my grandson Jacob, age two, who resides in Thompson Station, TN. Martin Wiggins is his 4th great grandfather.

Sincerely,

Marilynn Johnson.

I am a member of the Brothertown Tribe.

I reside in Knoxville, TN

Witness
L. Fowler
A. H. Hammer

Flawless J. Reed

State of Wisconsin }
County of Calumet }

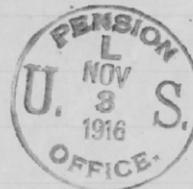
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this day by the above named affiant, and I
further certify that I am in no way interested
in said case, and am not concerned in its
prosecution; and that said affiant is personally
known to me and that he is a credible person;

Edgar M. Dick
Notary Public

My Commission expires Oct 7 1917

DECLARATION ACCEPTED AS
A CLAIM UNDER THE ACT OF
MARCH 2, 1895.

CHIEF, LAW DIVISION.



Enclosure you will find receipts for above
bills, which please return to me



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Great Great Great grandson of Martin B. Wiggins