

from the desk of...

Received

Mrs. Dennis E. Everett

AUG 2 9 1986

STONE RIVER  
NATIONAL  
BATTLEFIELD

✓ <sup>Don't</sup> Thanks for the help you  
have given me. I hope  
that I can visit the  
battlefield again when I  
can spend a day there.

Here's a copy of the book  
that I promised to send  
you for your files.

Jeanne Everett

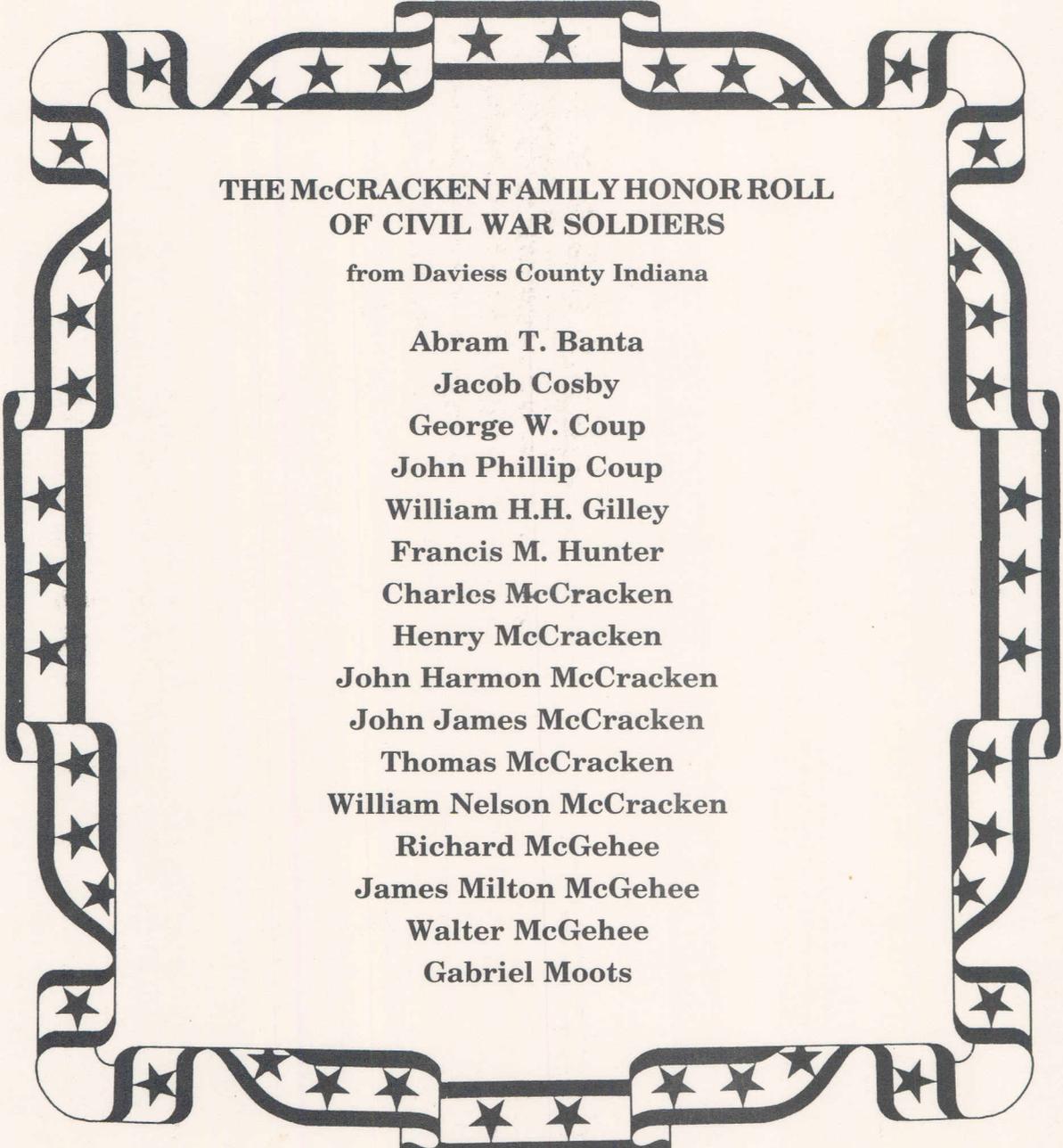
McCRACKEN FAMILY HISTORIAN  
JEANNE McCRACKEN EVERETT  
~~19650 OLD RIDGE ROAD~~  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46614

19310 Edinburgh Dr.

THE  
McCRACKEN FAMILY HONOR ROLL  
OF  
CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS



By  
Jeanne McCracken Everett



**THE McCracken FAMILY HONOR ROLL  
OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS**

from Daviess County Indiana

Abram T. Banta  
Jacob Cosby  
George W. Coup  
John Phillip Coup  
William H.H. Gilley  
Francis M. Hunter  
Charles McCracken  
Henry McCracken  
John Harmon McCracken  
John James McCracken  
Thomas McCracken  
William Nelson McCracken  
Richard McGehee  
James Milton McGehee  
Walter McGehee  
Gabriel Moots

By

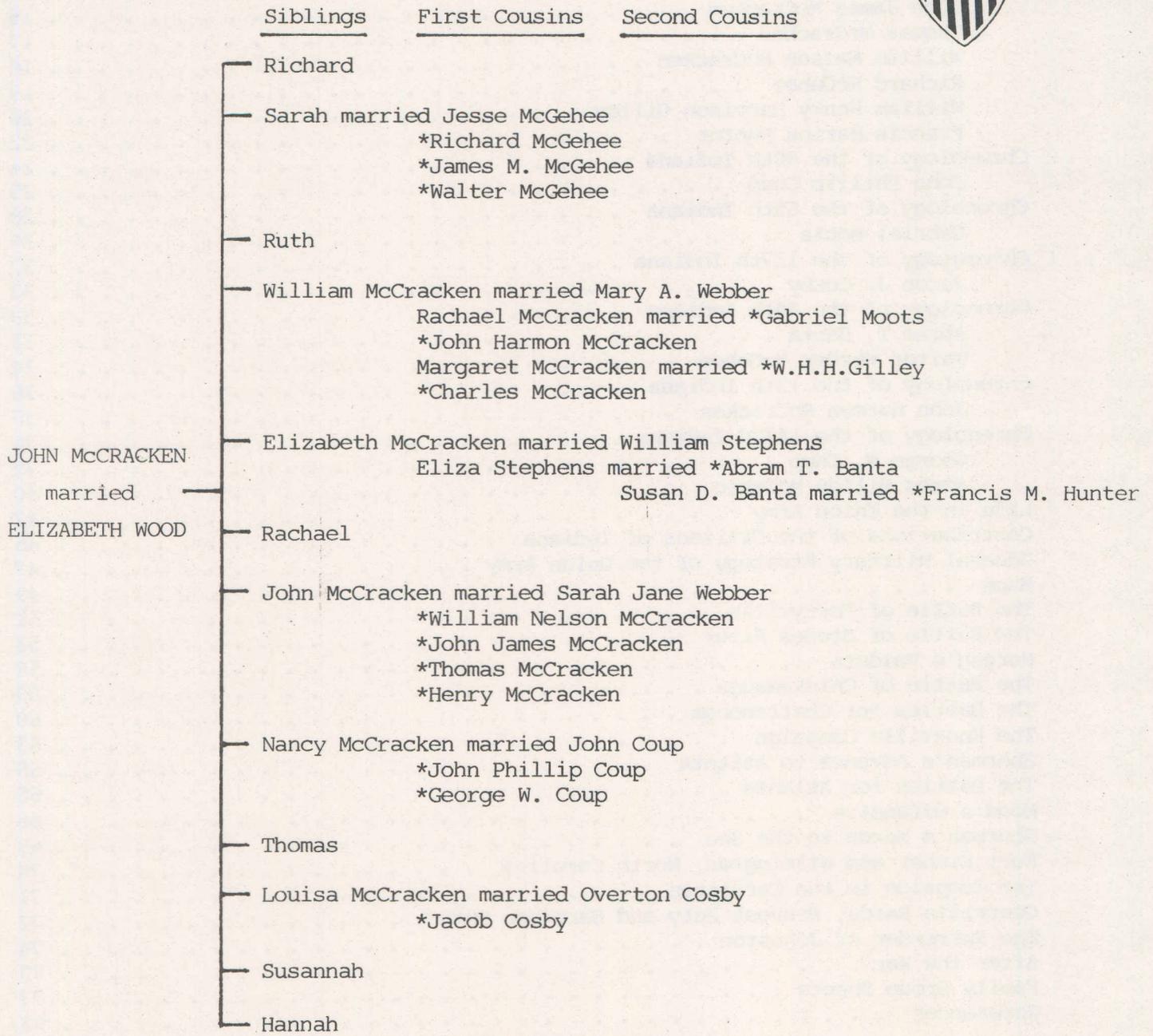
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19650 Old Ridge Road  
South Bend, Indiana 46614  
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THE McCracken Family Civil War Soldiers  
AND HOW THEY WERE RELATED TO EACH OTHER

(\* indicates the soldier)





What was it like to enlist, to march, to fight and perhaps to die as a soldier in the Civil War? Three thousand and forty-two men from Daviess County, Indiana, could answer that question from personal experience. Sixteen of them were members of the McCracken family by birth or by marriage. Their stories will be told here so that their descendants will know the price that was paid by them in order to save the Union.

The first part of this book is devoted to personal histories of the McCracken family members who were Civil War soldiers. The second part is a description of life in the army and a brief account of the campaigns and battles these soldiers experienced.



ENLISTMENTS

In Washington, Indiana, as in cities and towns across the country, the firing on Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861 generated great excitement. Five days after the Union flag had been lowered at Fort Sumter, a mass meeting was held at the court house in Washington. A brass band played patriotic songs and the chairman of the rally declared himself in favor of putting down the rebellion regardless of the cost of life and treasure. A committee presented the following resolutions:

"Whereas, With sorrow and deep regret, we lament the condition of our beloved country, and with feelings of pain we have learned that the flag of our country has been lowered to a hostile foe; therefore be it

"Resolved, That with our utmost energy and power we will sustain the Union, the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and that we will protect, with our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor, the flag of our country from insult, whether from foreign or domestic foe."

There were so many people who wanted to give their emotional, patriotic speeches that the meeting had to be adjourned and continued the next evening. On the second evening, so many people attended that they could not all be admitted to the court house. Soon more meetings were being held in churches and school houses throughout the county.

During this time, flags were flying everywhere and all business was suspended. A brass band played day and night. A short and glorious war was expected and the first volunteers from Daviess County left for Indianapolis on the 20th of April--just eight days after the war had erupted at Fort Sumter. More than a hundred local men rushed off for three months' service, expecting the war to be over by the end of their enlistments. They were cheered as they left by the enthusiastic citizens of Daviess County.

By July of 1861 it became apparent that the war would not soon be over. The government called for volunteers to put down the rebellion. Four more companies were soon formed and more Daviess County "boys" went off to war.

In September of 1861 the Forty-second Regiment of Indiana Volunteers was organized, and seven members of the McCracken family enlisted. Henry, John James, Thomas and William Nelson McCracken were all brothers. Charles McCracken and Richard McGehee were their first cousins. William H.H. Gilley would later marry Margaret McCracken (sister of Charles). All but two of the new soldiers were young, unmarried men. However, William Nelson McCracken was 32 years old, married and the father of five children; and Richard McGehee was 36 years old, married and the father of six children. These seven men were related to several other members of the unit through their mothers' families. They were also neighbors and members of Mount Olive Baptist Church. The impact on the community must have been tremendous.

Almost a year passed before another member of the family enlisted. John P. Coup was 18 years old when he enlisted at Vincennes on 11 August 1862 to serve three years in Company "G" 80th Indiana Infantry. He was mustered in on the 8th of September and saw combat for the first time a month later at the Battle of Perryville.

The draft was put into operation in Indiana in October of 1862, but Daviess County was able to meet its quota until later in the war.

On 1 August 1863 Gabriel Moots enlisted in Company "I" 65th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Gabriel had married Rachael McCracken in 1855 and was the father of three children. He was the only one of the family who was a veteran (having served in the Mexican War) and was 39 years old at the time of his enlistment. War was a serious matter by this time. Gabriel's brother-in-law, Charles McCracken, was still hospitalized after having been wounded seven months earlier, and Richard McGehee had been killed, leaving six children fatherless. Several of the other soldiers in the family had been seriously ill.

A week later Jacob Cosby responded to a call for six-months' men. He joined Company "K" 117th Indiana Infantry at the age of 21.

In January and February of 1864 some of the men came home on furlough. When the 42nd returned to the field, one of its new recruits was Francis M. Hunter, age 18. He enlisted 27 February 1864 in spite of the fact that one of his brothers had already been killed in the war and another had been discharged because of wounds. After the war Francis M. Hunter married Susan Dell Banta who was of McCracken descent.

In the fall of 1864 it became necessary to put the draft into effect in Daviess County. There had always been a small number of southern sympathizers living in the area and since early in 1863 tension had increased. In August of that year a riot had broken out in Washington between Union soldiers and southern sympathizers. By fall of 1864 the people of Daviess County were tired of the war and had very strong feelings against the draft. The great adventure had become a great tragedy.

Captain Eli McCarty was appointed notifying officer of the draft for 1864. He had been wounded at the Battle of Perryville on 8 October 1862 while serving with Company "G" 42nd Indiana Infantry and had resigned his commission. It was probably Captain McCarty who went to the homes of Abram T. Banta and Walter W. McGehee on 22 September 1864 to inform them that they had been drafted to serve one year. Abram T. Banta was 40 years old, married to a McCracken descendant and the father of six children. Walter W. McGehee was 26 years old, married and the father of one child. They must have been quite distressed about being drafted, but they complied and were mustered into the 44th Indiana Infantry on 18 October 1864.

The draft continued in Daviess County. In the southeastern part of the county some men had sworn to resist the draft and to kill anyone who would come after them. On 3 October 1864 Captain Eli McCarty was murdered while carrying out his responsibility to inform men that they had been drafted.

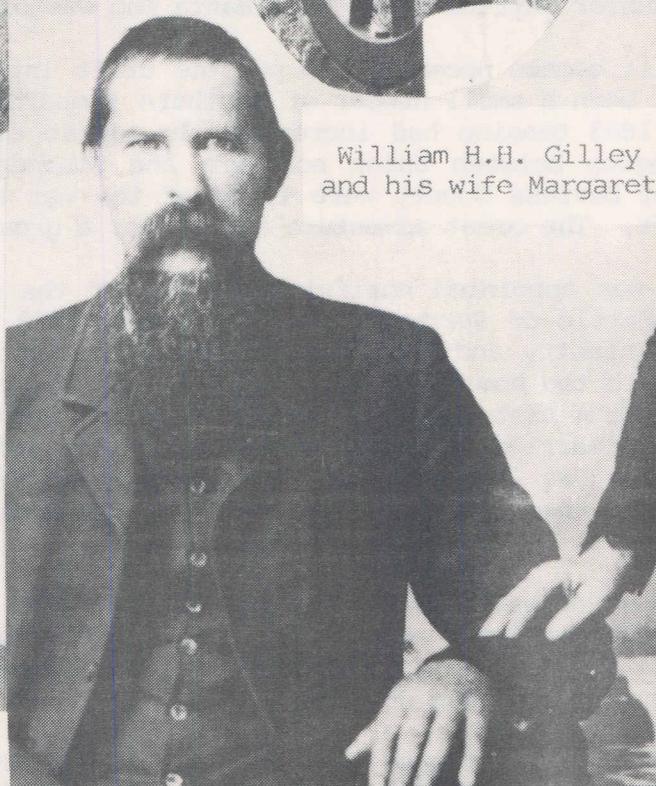
Of course, the draft still continued and on 23 December 1864 John Harmon McCracken became the next member of the family to enter the army. He was drafted to serve in Company "D" 13th Indiana Infantry. At the time, John Harmon McCracken was 28 years old, married and the father of one child.

The last two members of the family to join up were George W. Coup and James M. McGehee. They both enlisted on 25 January 1864 in Company "K" 143rd Indiana Infantry. A substantial bounty was being offered by the county at that time in order to avoid using the draft. George W. Coup was 19 years old and single. His cousin, James M. McGehee was 32 years old, married and the father of two children.

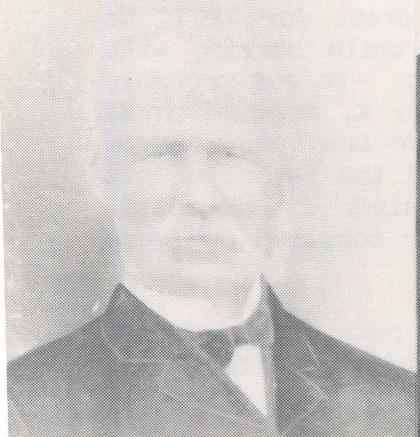
At the end of the war in May 1865, six members of the McCracken family were still in the army. Of the sixteen who served their country, two were killed, four wounded, and seven contracted diseases that permanently impaired their health.



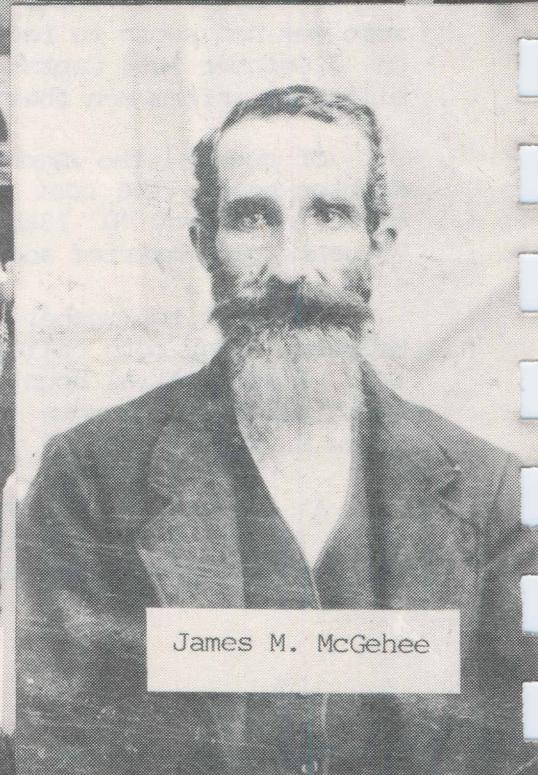
A cannon at  
Stones River



William H.H. Gilley  
and his wife Margaret



Henry McCracken

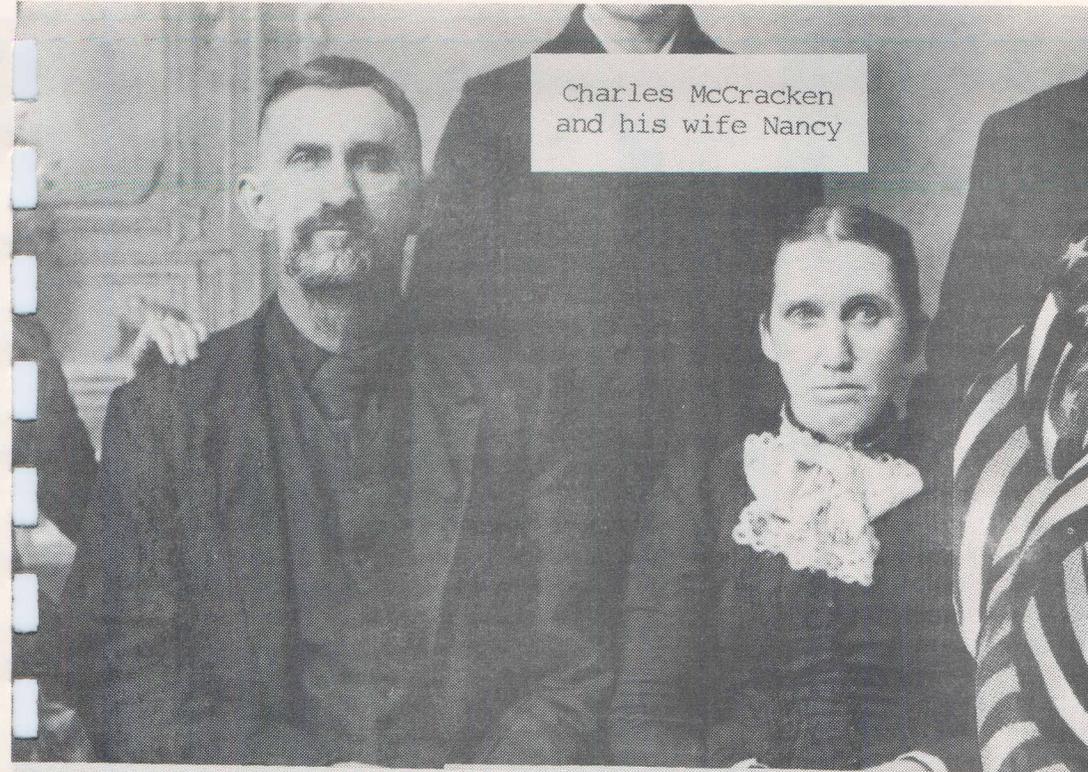


James M. McGehee



Stones River  
National Cemetery

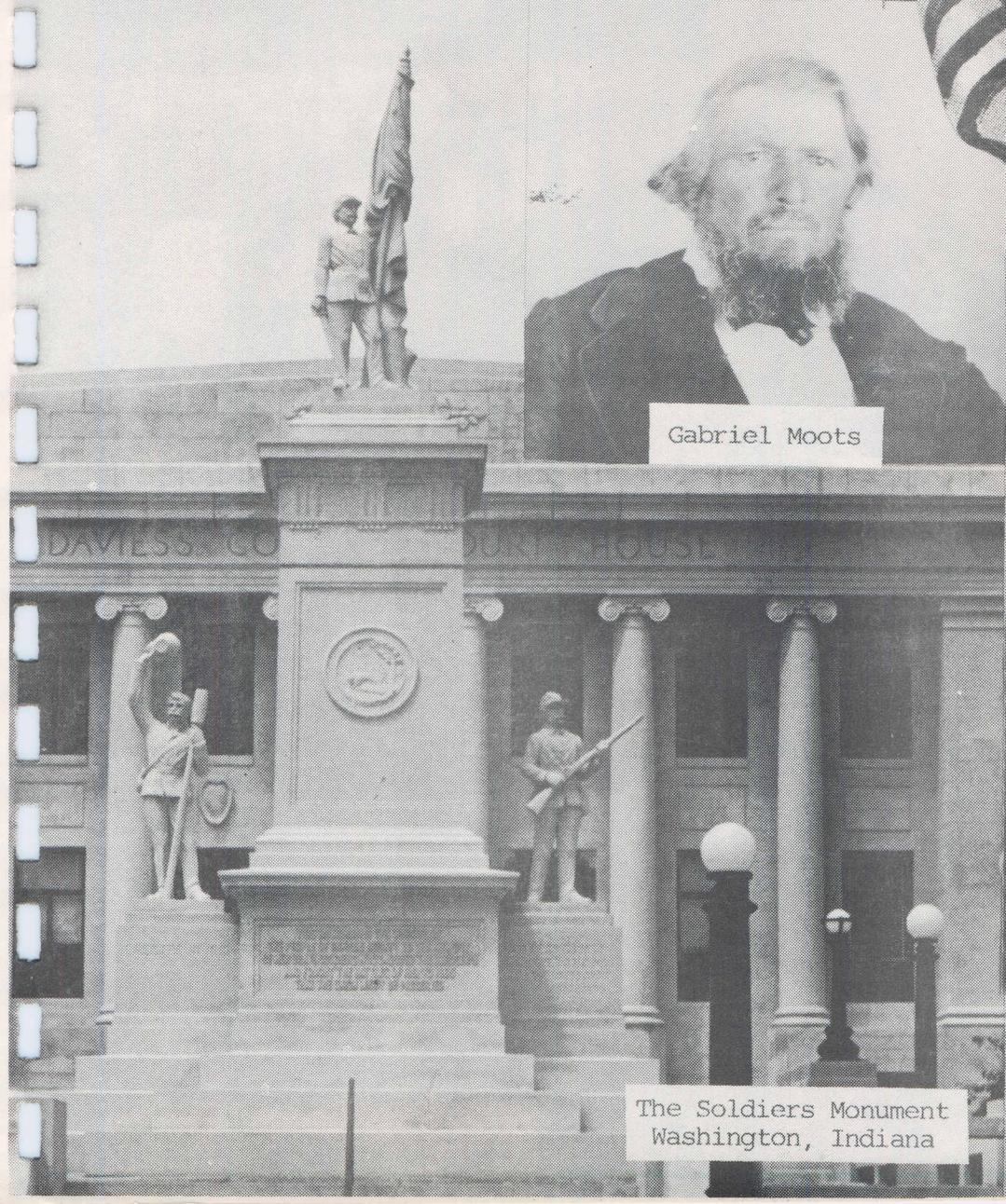
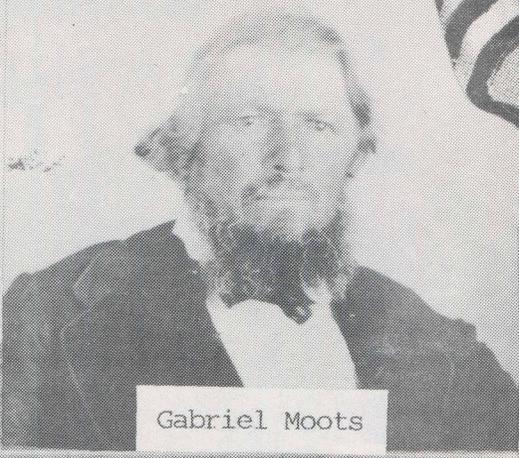
Charles McCracken  
and his wife Nancy



"My  
country  
'tis of thee,  
sweet Land  
of Liberty,  
of thee  
I sing."



Gabriel Moots

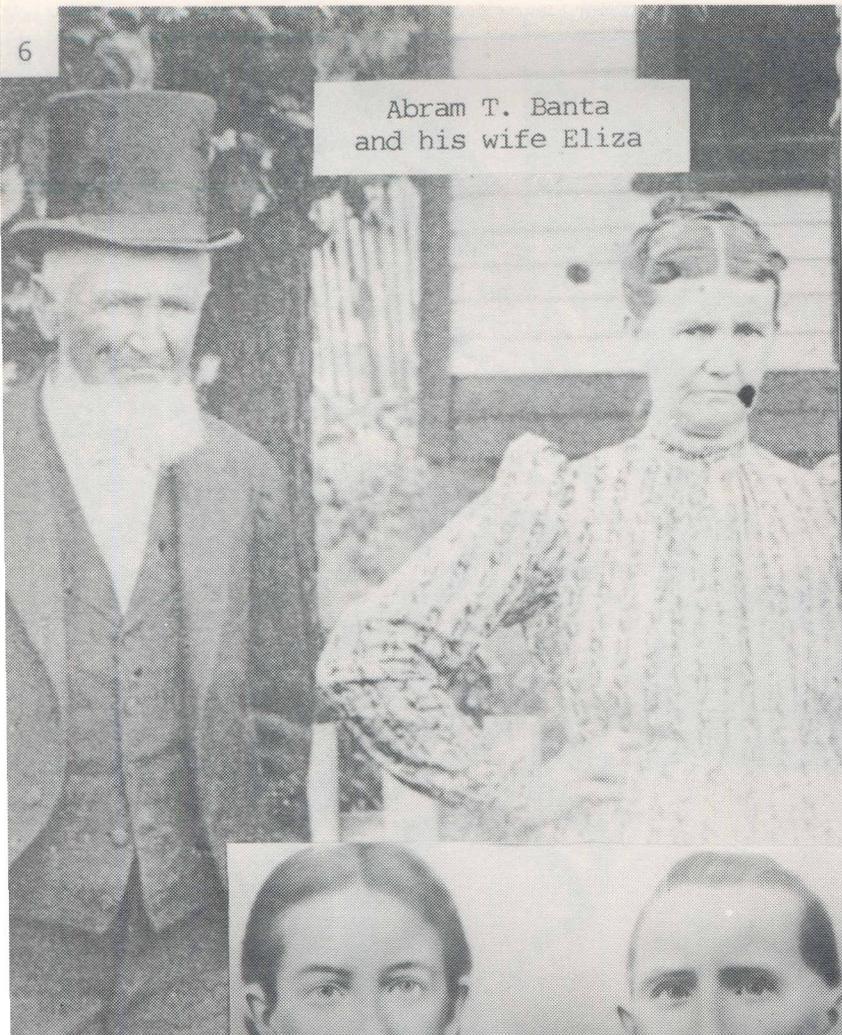


The Soldiers Monument  
Washington, Indiana

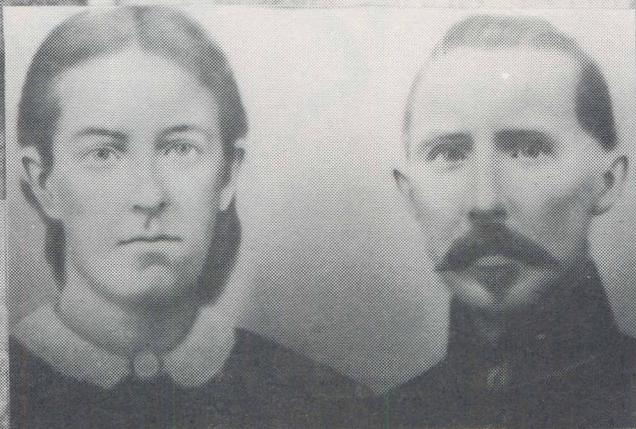
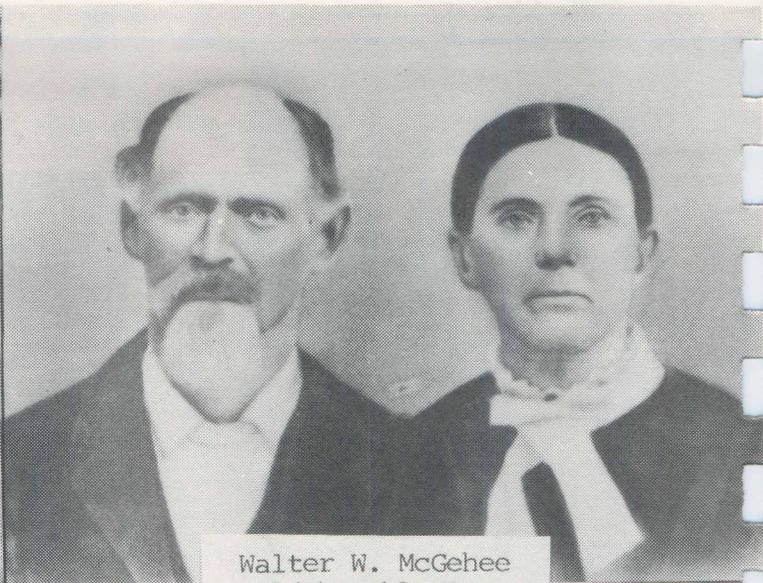
Jacob Cosby



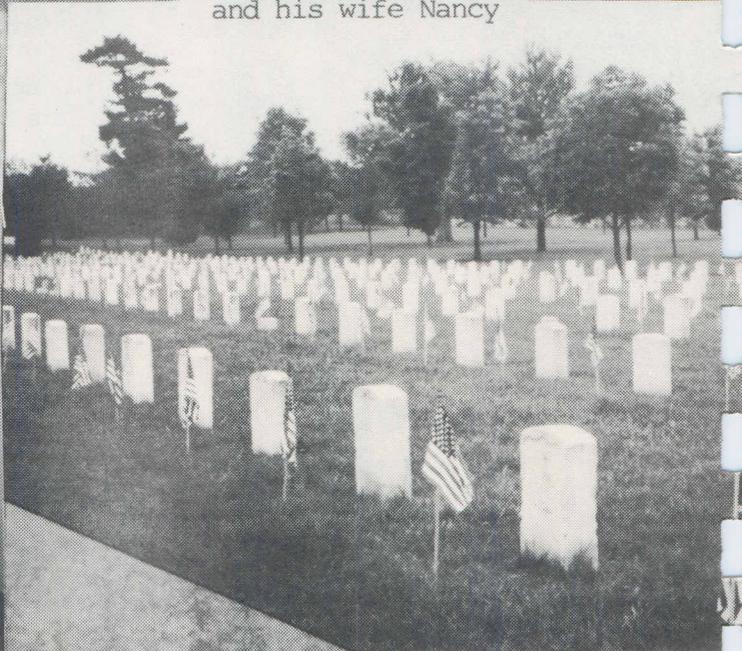
Abram T. Banta  
and his wife Eliza



Walter W. McGehee  
and his wife Nancy

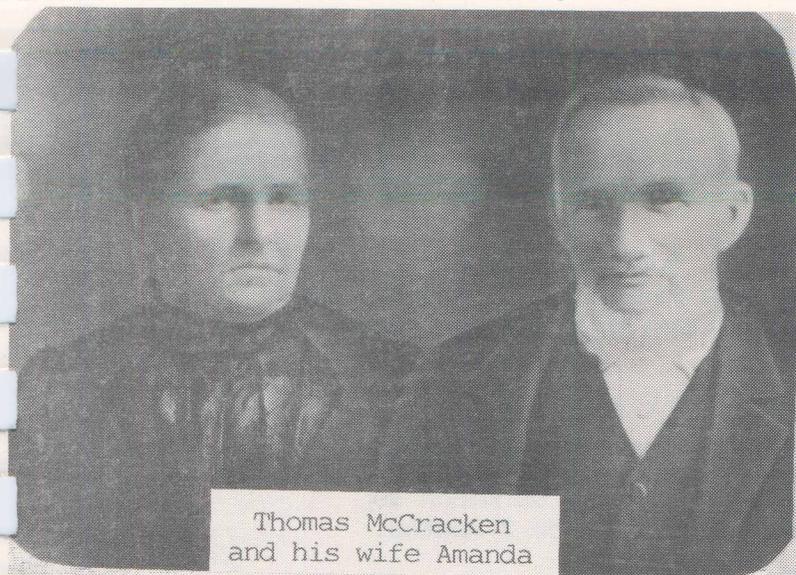


John James McCracken  
and his wife Adaline



Civil War Soldiers' Reunion

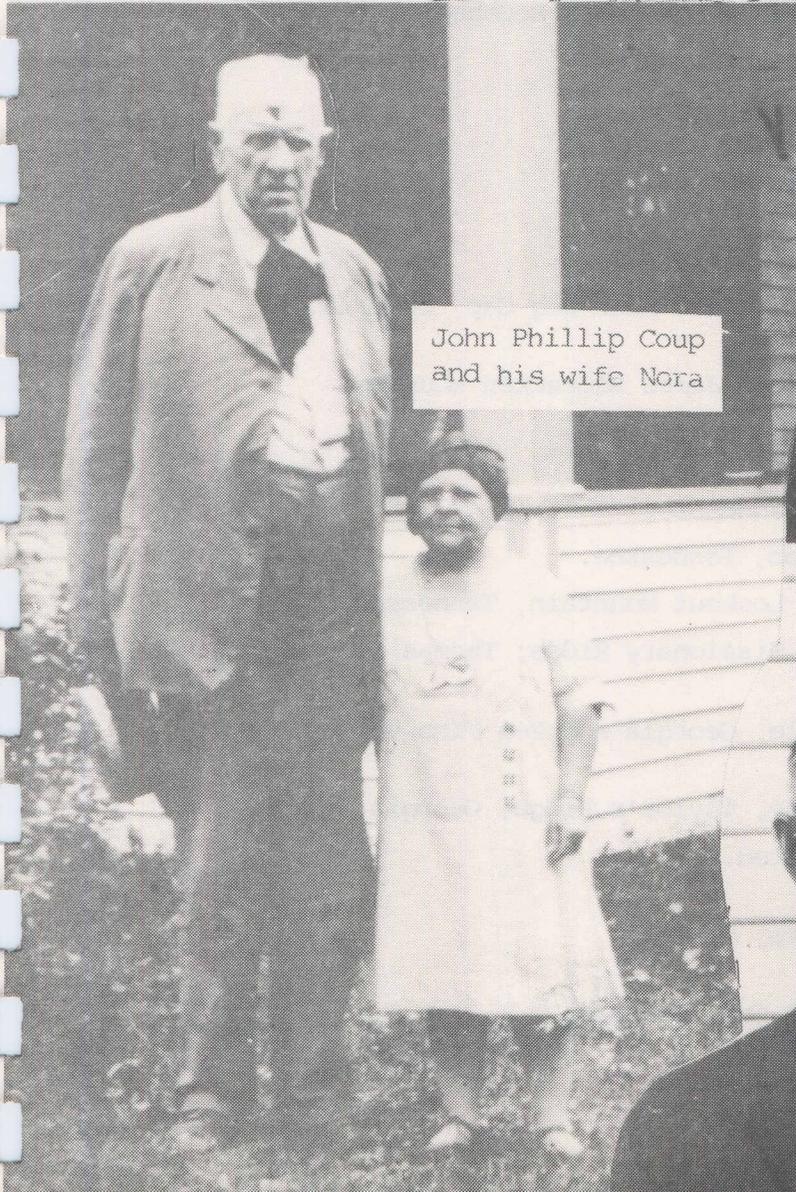
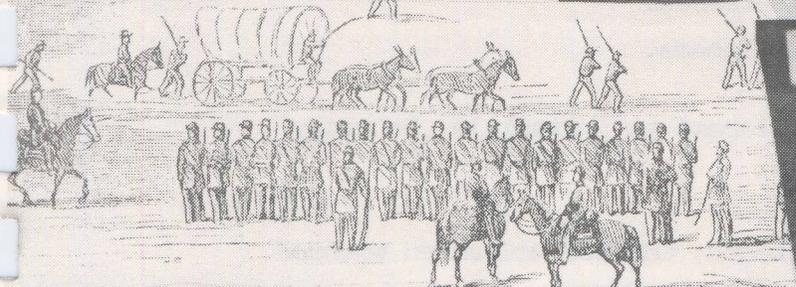




Thomas McCracken and his wife Amanda



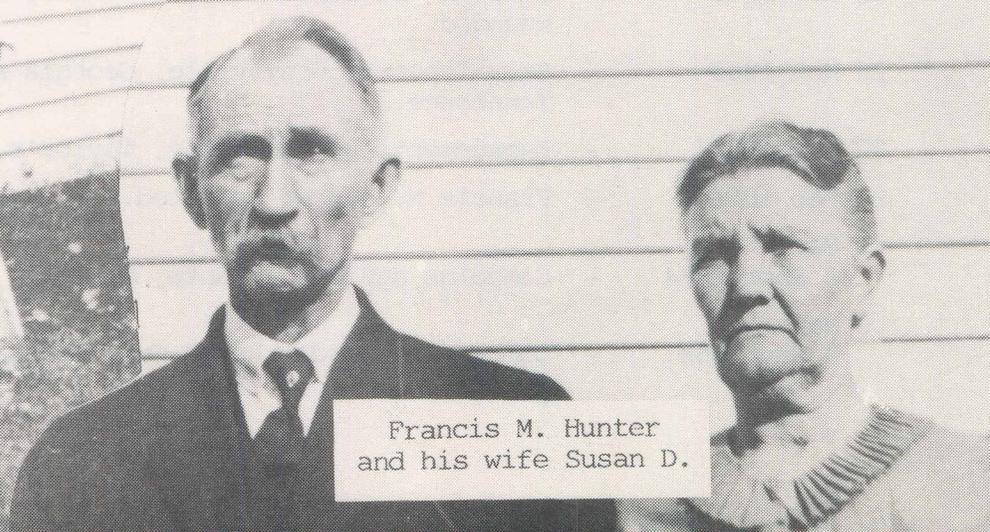
John H. McCracken and his wife Delana



John Phillip Coup and his wife Nora



The grave of Richard McGehee



Francis M. Hunter and his wife Susan D.



CHRONOLOGY OF THE 42nd REGIMENT OF INDIANA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY



- 28 Sept 1861 - The following were enrolled. All enlisted for 3 years:  
Charles McCracken, Henry McCracken, John James McCracken,  
Thomas McCracken, William Nelson McCracken, Richard McGehee,  
William H.H. Gilley
- 10 Oct 1861 - All seven above mustered in at Evansville.
- January 1862 - Henry McCracken had frozen feet at Calhoun, Kentucky.
- February 1862 - William H.H. Gilley had Typhoid Fever on march to  
Fort Donelson; Thomas McCracken ill for 3 months.
- 11 Apr 1862 - Skirmish at Wartrace, Tennessee.
- 29 Apr 1862 - Action near Bridgeport, Alabama.
- 27 Aug -
- 26 Sept 1862 - March from Huntsville, Alabama to Louisville, Kentucky  
in pursuit of Bragg.
- 8 Oct 1862 - Battle of Perryville.
- 31 Dec 1862 - Battle of Stones River began; Charles McCracken wounded.
- 4 Jan 1863 - Battle of Stones River ended; Richard McGehee wounded.
- 7 Jan 1863 - Richard McGehee died of his wounds.
- 29 June 1863 - Skirmish at Elm River, Tennessee.
- 29 June -
- 16 Aug 1863 - Occupation of Middle Tennessee.
- 16 Aug -
- 22 Sept 1863 - Georgia Campaign
- 11 Sept 1863 - Skirmish at Davis' Cross Roads near Dug Gap, Georgia.
- 19 Sept -
- 21 Sept 1863 - Battle of Chickamauga; John James McCracken wounded.
- 21 Sept 1863 - Skirmishes at Rossville Gap, Georgia.
- 24 Sept -
- 23 Nov 1863 - Siege of Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- 23 Nov 1863 - Engagement, Orchard Knob, Tennessee.
- 24 Nov 1863 - Assault and capture of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.
- 25 Nov 1863 - Assault and capture of Missionary Ridge; Thomas McCracken  
wounded.
- 26 Nov 1863 - Skirmishes at Graysville, Georgia and Pea Vine Valley,  
Tennessee.
- 27 Nov 1863 - Engagement, Ringgold Gap, Taylor's Ridge, Georgia.
- 27 Feb 1864 - Francis M. Hunter enlisted.
- 1 May -
- 8 Sept 1864 - Campaign against Atlanta, Georgia.
- 8 May -
- 9 May 1864 - Combat, Buzzard's Roost Gap, Georgia.

- 14 May -
- 15 May 1864 - Battle of Resaca, Georgia; Henry McCracken's hearing damaged.
- 25 May -
- 5 June 1864 - Battles near Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills, Georgia.
- 27 May 1864 - Action, Picketts' Mills, Georgia.
- 28 May 1864 - John James McCracken discharged at Cliffburn Barracks, D.C.
- 10 June 1864 - Charles McCracken discharged at Evansville, Indiana.
- 11 June -
- 14 June 1864 - Combat near Pine Hill, Georgia.
- 15 June -
- 17 June 1864 - Combat near Lost Mountain, Georgia.
- 27 June 1864 - General assault on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.
- 4 July 1864 - Combat Smyrna Camp Ground, Georgia.
- 18 July 1864 - Skirmish, Buckhead, Nancy's Creek, Georgia.
- 19 July -
- 20 July 1864 - Battle of Peachtree Creek; Francis M. Hunter wounded.
- 22 July -
- 25 Aug 1864 - Siege of Atlanta.
- 5 Aug -
- 7 Aug 1864 - Combat at Utoy Creek, Georgia.
- 29 Aug 1864 - Skirmish near Red Oak, Georgia.
- 31 Aug -
- 1 Sept 1864 - Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia.
- 15 Oct 1864 - William Nelson McCracken discharged at Louisville, Kentucky.
- 17 Oct 1864 - William H.H. Gilley, Thomas McCracken and Henry McCracken discharged at Villanova, Georgia.
- 15 Nov -
- 10 Dec 1864 - Campaign against Savannah (Sherman's March to the Sea).
- 10 Dec -
- 21 Dec 1864 - Siege of Savannah.
- 1 Feb -
- 26 Apr 1865 - Campaign of the Carolinas.
- 16 Mar 1865 - Battle of Averysboro, North Carolina.
- 19 Mar -
- 21 Mar 1865 - Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina.
- 23 Mar 1865 - Occupation of Goldsboro, North Carolina.
- 13 Apr 1865 - Occupation of Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 26 Apr 1865 - Surrender of Johnston's army at Bennett's House near Durham Station, North Carolina.
- 29 Apr -
- 19 May 1865 - March to Washington, D.C. via Richmond, Virginia.
- 24 May 1865 - Grand Review of Sherman's Army in Washington, D.C.
- 21 July 1865 - Francis M. Hunter discharged at Louisville, Kentucky.



CHARLES McCracken

Charles McCracken was born 3 February 1842 in Daviess County, Indiana. His parents were William McCracken and Mary Ann Webber. On 28 September 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company "G" 42nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry. At the same time his cousins, Richard McGehee, John J., Henry, Thomas and William N. McCracken and his future brother-in-law William H.H. Gilley also enlisted. Charles McCracken was 19 years old. At Evansville, Indiana, on 10 October 1861 Charles and the others were mustered in to serve three year enlistments.

At the Battle of Stones River, 31 December 1862, Charles McCracken was seriously wounded in both legs. A bullet entered the left leg about mid-way below the knee. It went completely through that leg and then entered the right leg where it lodged between the bones of the right leg. It remained there for nearly twenty-five years. He was treated in a field hospital near the battlefield, transferred to an army hospital in Cincinnati and then transferred again to an army hospital in Evansville, Indiana, where he remained until his discharge 10 June 1864--almost a year and a half after he was wounded. His discharge states that he was unfit for the Veteran Reserve Corps and that he was unable to walk without crutches.

While Charles was in the hospital at Evansville he met Nancy Ann Bastin. Her home was north of Bloomington, Indiana, but she was living in Evansville and helping care for the soldiers in the hospital. On 9 July 1864 Charles McCracken and Nancy Ann Bastin were married in Evansville by a Methodist minister. The young couple went home to Barr Township, Daviess County, Indiana, where they purchased land and built a log house. They eventually became quite prosperous.

Mount Olive Baptist Church was very important in the lives of Charles and Nancy and their seven children. The land for the first church building had been given by Charles' parents, and many aunts, uncles and cousins were also members of Mount Olive.

The wound in Charles' right leg never healed properly and in 1869 and 1875 it became so infected that surgery was necessary to drain the infection. In 1880 Dr. W.L. Evans of Loogootee stated: "There is no probability of the wound ever healing permanently and he (Charles) would be, in my opinion, in a much safer condition if the limb was amputated just below the knee joint, and I frequently advise him to submit to an amputation". Charles never submitted and lived to be 87 years old. Nancy died 6 December 1917 and Charles died 15 July 1929. Both are buried in Bethany Christian Church Cemetery.

The obituary of Charles McCracken:

"Civil War Vet Taken by Death Late Monday

Charles McCracken, 87 Died at  
Home Near Montgomery

Charles McCracken, 87 retired farmer of Barr township, died Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock following a serious illness of about two weeks.

Death of Mr. McCracken, who was a Civil War veteran, resulted from infirmities of age.

Born in Barr township on February 3, 1842, the deceased had spent his life in this vicinity. At the time of his death he lived south of Montgomery.

The son of William and Mary (Webber) McCracken, the deceased married Nancy A. Bastin on July 9, 1864, and to this union seven children were born, six of whom survive. The wife preceded him in death.

During the war Mr. McCracken was a private in Company G, 42nd Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers.

He was a member of the First Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

One of a family of nine boys and girls, Mr. McCracken was the last of the family.

Surviving children are William H. McCracken of Washington, Mary E. Steen of Montgomery, Henry M. McCracken of Argos, Ind., Charles A. McCracken of Washington, and George M. and Minnie A. McCracken of Montgomery. Fifteen grand-children, and sixteen great-grand-children also survive.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock at Bethany church. Rev. C.J. Grimes in charge. Burial will be made in Bethany cemetery. James A. Gill will have charge of the funeral."

Be sure to read the memories of Charles McCracken written by two of his grand-children, Gladys Clark and Aubrey Steen. Mamie Potts has also written about Charles and Nancy McCracken. They were her guardians after she was six years old.

Charles McCracken - My Grandfather, by Gladys McCracken Clark

My Grandfather was a tall man, taller than my Dad. He was known as Uncle Charles by everyone. He never missed church, the Baptist Church (Mount Olive) in Barr Township. Grandpa had a carriage that was a two seated buggy. He could sing very well and always sang all the way to Church and back. One song I always remember was "When the Roll is Called up Yonder". Earl and I would walk a mile and go with him as soon as we got old enough. He was born Feb. 3, 1842 - died July 15, 1929.

Grandpa never worked in the fields, the boys did that, he was a Civil War Veteran. He had a lot of hobbies, raised all kinds of fruit, berries, etc. and every color of grape, raspberries, red, yellow and black. I can almost see them, they were in the garden by the walk that went to the old toilet. He had currant bushes and a large tame blackberry patch. He had some that were white when ripe. We walked back a long lane to the berry patch.

There was an apple house, built with double walls filled with sawdust, and ice was cut from the ponds in winter and stored in there and kept things cool in summer and from freezing in winter. All kinds of apple trees were grown. One apple tree had apples called Black Twig that my mother liked so well. Grandpa always got apples when we went to visit.

Grandpa loved good horses, they had good ones them days, all the work of farming was done with horses, they milked cows and had a cream separator, it was in the well house, with a large wide trough that the water flowed thru to a tank outside of the well house for stock to drink. They set the crocks of milk, cream and butter in that trough to keep it cool, can almost see it yet.

They used a large vat to save the wood ashes in and caught the Lye from the ashes and used meat frying or old lard to make their soap.

There was a large wood shed, where they stored the wood to cook with and keep warm.

Grandma had a large loom in one end of the woodshed to weave their strips of carpet and rugs. People wore their clothes nearly out back those days. When they were "Worn Out" they cut them in 3/4" strips and made carpet balls to weave into carpets. A new carpet was a prize possession. When they cleaned house the carpet was taken up and there was straw under it that had to be taken up. The floor was scrubbed after threshing wheat so we could have new straw to go under the carpet, sometimes the strips of carpet were washed and sewed back together, and stretched when put down.

Grandpa always ate breakfast at 6 a.m. - noon Meal 12:00 and supper at 6 p.m.

He lived close to McCracken school house. When the weather was bad I stayed all nite there.

The water was carried from Grandpa's for the school children to drink. It was a great privilege to get to go fetch the water. Two children went together and carried the bucket of water. It was kept in a stone water fountain, each child had their own folding cup to drink out of.

Grandpa loved cookies made with Brown Sugar, a lot of cookies were made with sorghum molasses, everyone had a Kane patch to have their sorghum every fall to last all year stored in 5 gallon jugs.

Red sugar was always sprinkled on the cookies Grandma made before they were baked. (I do that too)

His bookcase and desk was a place for stick candy and was kept locked. When the grandchildren went he always gave us some before we went home.

Grandpa had a large pigeon house, raised a lot of pigeons, can see them yet. I've heard my Dad say, Grandpa bought 40 acres of land at a time; one time he liked just a few dollars having enough to pay for it so they dressed young pigeons and sold them to pay for the land. They gave each child 40 acres of land.

He had a team of little yellow horses named Meg and Babe. He drove the wagon to town to sell the butter and eggs each Friday.

#### Memories of Charles McCracken, by Aubrey C. Steen, August 1984

My memories of Grandpa Charles McCracken span from the stories he told to me as a child to the events I witnessed for myself.

At the age of 15, Grandpa's dad bought him a coon hound. With the aid of this dog, he hunted coons and opossums. He saved the money he received from the various skins and purchased a horse. While he was in the service of his country, his dad had taken care of his horse and upon returning he found that he was the owner of three horses.

When Grandpa married, he purchased twenty acres of land from his dad and built a log house. Later he built the house that still stands today and used the log house for his barn. Up to this time he used a shed in which to keep his horses. After building his new barn, he purchased a stallion and began raising and selling horses. He had two Texas ponies named Meg and Babe that he drove to a buckboard wagon. He sold a team of horses to Lafe Cosby which were used to pull the first milk wagon in Washington by the Tip Top Creamry. Grandpa also sold one grey horse

to the fire department in Washington which was still being used when the first gasoline truck was purchased.

After being wounded in the war, he was unable to do farm work so he had two hired hands who did the work until his sons were old enough to farm the land.

Two years after he returned from the army, he and his brother William purchased a thresh machine and a horse power with which they threshed wheat. They used this for eight years, but then decided it was too hard on their horses and purchased a stationary steam engine. They pulled this engine from farm to farm to do the threshing. When Grandpa and his brother William dissolved partnership, Grandpa kept the stationary engine and William bought an engine that operated on its own power. Grandpa then began to run a shingle machine with the use of the stationary engine. After using this machine for several years, it caught on fire one day. The machine was destroyed, but he still had the use of the engine. At this time he built a feed mill and used the engine in this way. He put in a large stone grinder and every Thursday the neighbors would bring their grain to be ground.

I recall him telling me that on the day before Thanksgiving each year, he journeyed to the Blue woods to shoot a wild turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

Grandpa also owned a yoke of oxen which was used to pull the stationary engine. Uncle Emory was the main driver of these oxen. When old man Blue was clearing his ground and cutting the timber from his land, he purchased this yoke of oxen and drove them back to Ohio.

He raised three types of chickens. He had a large group of White Rock chickens, a pen of Wyandotte chickens and a pen of Bard Rock chickens. He gathered all the eggs separately, counted them and recorded them each night to keep track of which were the best layers.

Grandpa was also a bee lover. He had approximately twenty hives of bees from which he sold the honey each year.

His most used phrase was "By George". When I was about 7 or 8 years of age, Grandpa would take me to town every Friday when he went to deliver his butter and fruit to his customers. Sometimes we would stop at the home of his sister, Aunt Meg Gilley. If we didn't eat dinner with her, Grandpa would go to the store and purchase cheese, crackers and bananas for us with the solemn promise from me that I wouldn't tell Grandma he had spent some of the money from his deliveries.

#### Memories of Grandpa Charles McCracken, by Mamie Hayden Potts

My most precious memory is that Grandpa loved to sing and taught me to sing. He would always sing when we were milking the cows. He had a flock of white Plymouth Rock chickens and these were his pride and joy.

He and grandma were my guardians from the time I was six until I was 18. I always thought of them as my grandparents and still do. I owe them a great debt of gratitude and appreciate the care they gave me. In fact, I owe them all that I am or ever expect to be.

Grandpa always went to Church at Mount Olive Baptist Church but when the weather was too bad, he would spend Sunday morning reading his Bible. I don't know how many times he read the Bible through, but I have heard him say, many times, that no matter how many times one could read the Bible, or any part of it, that person would find something he or she had missed before.

Grandpa was in the Civil War and was wounded and carried a bullet in his leg for almost 25 years. I've heard him tell about this suffering. He would also tease Grandma and tell that she was to blame for his cutting his foot with an ax while trying to get her to notice him. This before he had met her.

Another thing Grandpa and Grandma were proud of and enjoyed having was all kinds of fruit. We would start out picking and canning with gooseberries, then cherries, strawberries, raspberries (black, red and yellow), blackberries, early apples and peaches, ending with October cling peaches. He had a fruit house where he stored the winter apples. These were always good.

My mother was Georgia Katherine Bastin, niece of Grandma McCracken.



#### HENRY McCracken

Henry McCracken was born 5 March 1843 in Daviess County, Indiana. His parents were John McCracken and Sarah Jane Webber. Henry enlisted as a private in Company "G" 42nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers on 28 September 1861 at the age of 18. His brothers John James, Thomas and William Nelson McCracken enlisted at the same time. They were mustered in on 10 October 1861 at Evansville.

During December of 1861 the 42nd was ordered to move its camp from Henderson to Calhoun, Kentucky, where there was a concentration of Union troops. The weather was cold and rainy making the roads ankle-deep in mud. Each man was required to carry about seventy-five pounds of equipment in his knapsack in addition to his rifle and haversack. At night the regiment usually had to make camp in the mud and get their water from any available stream. It was not long until one-third of the regiment was sick with typhoid, measles, pneumonia and dysentery. The result for Henry McCracken was frostbitten feet which caused him to have painful, swollen feet throughout his three years of service.

In the spring of 1863 Henry became ill with fever and was in a regimental hospital near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. His brother "Nelson" went to visit him every day until the 42nd moved on, leaving Henry in the hospital. When Henry rejoined his unit several months later his relatives were shocked to see him because he had lost his hair as a result of his illness.

At the Battle of Resaca, 15 May 1864, the 42nd was being supported by a battery of six pound Napoleon guns. These were muzzle-loading cannons with a maximum effective range of 800 to 1,000 yards. They fired two to three rounds a minute. The cannons were on a hill above a branch of water. Company "G", 42nd, was below the artillery and some of the men were ordered to lay down in the water to protect themselves. The water was cold and Henry went into the water reluctantly and only after he was ordered to do so by his officers. He laid in the water for several hours with

cannons being fired over his head. When he came out of the water after dark he had a fever. As a result of fever, exposure and the concussion of the cannons, his hearing was damaged.

Henry McCracken was discharged as a Corporal 17 October 1864 at Villanova, Georgia. He returned to his father's farm and worked there for one season before he moved to Patoka, Gibson County, Indiana. There he worked at Coleman's Sawmill as an engineer and fireman running the stationary engine, but he occasionally worked in the planing mill and sometimes stacked lumber as well.

On 12 September 1867 Henry McCracken married Mary Jane Hanks in Gibson County, Indiana.

After working at the sawmill for a number of years, Henry decided that he was not able to do that kind of work any longer and that he must get on a farm. The McCrackens moved to Kansas, but only stayed for a short time and then returned to Patoka. Henry went back to the sawmill and worked there another year. He and Mary Jane then moved to Daviess County and Henry went back to farming in Barr Township, having been away for about 10 years.

Mary Jane died 13 October 1904, leaving Henry a widower for over twenty years. Henry died 30 December 1924 and was buried in Bethany Christian Church Cemetery with his wife.

His rather touching obituary follows

"Illness of few hours fatal  
to Henry McCracken

Henry McCracken, one of Barr township's oldest, most prominent and widely known men, died at 10 o'clock last night at his home south of Montgomery at the age of almost eighty-two years after a shockingly brief illness.

Mr. McCracken who had been enjoying robust health for a man of his advanced years had been in Montgomery during the afternoon and was stricken about 4 o'clock, shortly after returning to his farm home. He was chopping wood when the fatal seizure came on and gradually sank, although physicians were called immediately after he became ill. Heart disease is believed to have caused his death.

Perhaps none of the older residents of Barr township had a wider circle of friends or was better liked than the deceased man and his sudden illness and death have cast a note of genuine sadness everywhere among his acquaintances. Mr. McCracken was born on a farm within three quarters of a mile of the place where he died and his entire life excepting two short intervals when he was in Kansas were passed in the same community. He had always been a farmer.

Mr. McCracken's wife died some years ago but he is survived by the following children: Minnie, of Evansville; Lillie, at home; Oliver of Washington; John, at home; Will and Arthur of Oklahoma; and Byron of Harrison township. Two sisters also are left, they being Eliza Rudolph and Mary Jane McCracken, both of Montgomery.

In every sense of the word, Henry McCracken was one of the patriarchs of southern Barr township, a man who was strictly honest in all his personal and business dealings and who loved his family and home with an intense devotion that was noticeable to everyone."



JOHN JAMES McCracken

John James McCracken was born 2 December 1832 in Daviess County, Indiana. His parents were John McCracken and Sarah Jane Webber. He enlisted in Company "G" 42nd Regiment of Volunteers on 28 September 1861 at Washington, Indiana, and on 10 October 1861 he was mustered in at Evansville, Indiana, with his brothers William Nelson, Thomas and Henry McCracken. John James McCracken was 28 years old and entered the service as a Sergeant.

The 42nd Indiana lost eight killed, fifty-three wounded and thirty-one captured at the Battle of Chickamauga. They fought under General Thomas who became known as "The Rock of Chickamauga" because it was his corps that held the line against the Confederates after the rest of the Union army retreated in confusion. John James McCracken was one of the 9,756 Union soldiers who were wounded in the battle. His wound required the amputation of the right index finger. After the hand had healed, he was transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps because he could no longer shoot a rifle. At Cliffburn Barracks, D.C., on 28 May 1864, John was discharged being unfit for duty and having just five months of his enlistment to serve.

John J. McCracken returned to Daviess County, Indiana, and on 21 December 1867 he married Adaline Ingram. They had five children before Adaline died in 1880 after only 13 years of marriage. John lived until 2 July 1910, aged 77. He and his wife are both buried in Bethany Christian Church Cemetery.

His very interesting obituary follows:

"John J. McCracken, Old  
Soldier, is gone

---

Was one of the wealthiest citizens of county--  
estate valued at more than \$50,000.

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John J. McCracken, who was one of the wealthiest men of the county, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jacob Clark, near Glendale, Saturday afternoon, of Brights disease. Funeral services were held from Bethany church Tuesday and burial in the adjoining cemetery. Mr. McCracken had been declining for two or three years but his condition did not become critical until about two months ago.

One relative estimates the estate of Mr. McCracken to be worth \$50,000 or \$60,000. The bulk of the estate is in farming lands. A partial distribution of the cash was made several weeks ago by Mr. McCracken he realizing that chances were against his recovery. He amassed his fortune by economical living and assiduous work and it may be truthfully said that he was the architect of his own fortune.

Surviving him are five children, two sisters and one brother. The children are Mrs. Jacob Clark, Harrison township; Orien H. McCracken and Austin McCracken, Maysville; and Cyrus B. McCracken of Washington, and J.E. McCracken of Elmore township. Mr. McCracken was born in Barr township more than seventy-seven years ago and had lived all his life in Daviess county. He was an old soldier and one of the best known and respected men of the county."



THOMAS McCracken

When the Civil War began, John McCracken and his wife Sarah Jane (Webber) McCracken were the parents of seven sons and two daughters. Four of their sons enlisted in Company "G" 42nd Indiana Regiment of Volunteer Infantry on 28 September 1861. They were: Thomas, William Nelson, John James and Henry. Thomas McCracken was twenty-five years old at the time of his enlistment, having been born 5 October 1835 in Barr Township, Daviess County, Indiana.

Shortly after enlistment the "boys" of the 42nd Indiana were vaccinated for smallpox at their camp near Calhoun, Kentucky. This was unusual, as very little was known about what caused disease--let alone how to prevent it. During the first winter of their service, the 42nd Regiment experienced a great deal of sickness. There was an outbreak of measles in the camp causing several deaths, and many soldiers had such severe complications that they were never fit for duty again. Thomas McCracken was one of the soldiers who was so sick that he was sent to a hospital in Nashville, Tennessee in late February 1862. After about a month, he was transferred to a hospital in Louisville, and at that time he wrote to his family telling them about his illness. His older brother Samuel Clark McCracken was sent to Louisville by their father to bring Thomas home. He was able to obtain a furlough and went home to Barr Township for two months, hoping to regain his health. In a short time, his brother "Clark" became ill with what was at first believed to be chickenpox. But, they soon discovered that "Clark" had smallpox and had exposed the rest of the family. It is believed that "Clark" contracted the disease while visiting the hospital at Louisville. By the time that all of the family was out of danger, Thomas was well enough to report back to the hospital at Louisville. He was sent to the front and reached the regiment at Huntsville, Alabama.

At the battle of Missionary Ridge, Thomas McCracken was wounded on the right side of the face. A musket ball entered through the cheek and lodged in the jaw damaging the jaw and the facial muscles. It was removed by a doctor at a field hospital set up in a Methodist Church at Chattanooga. He was transferred to a hospital in Nashville, and after a short convalescence returned to his regiment.

Thomas McCracken saw combat in approximately twenty-four battles and skirmishes, including Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, the Battles for Chattanooga and the Battles for Atlanta before he was discharged 17 October 1864 at Villanova, Georgia. His gunshot wound healed, but he suffered from the effects of his illnesses for the rest of his life and was pensioned from the U.S. Government as a result.

In 1871 he married Amanda Jane Bastin in Monroe County, Indiana. He was 35 and she was 16. Amanda was the younger sister of Nancy (Bastin) McCracken who was married to Thomas' first cousin, Charles McCracken. Thomas died 8 April 1901 at the age of 65 and is buried at Mount Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.

His obituary from the "Washington Democrat" follows:

"Thomas McCracken, who died Monday afternoon at his home two and a half miles southeast of Montgomery had been sick for over three months from cancer of the liver. His condition, however, did not become serious until two weeks ago. The funeral took place Wednesday. He leaves a wife, two daughters, Mrs. Will Price and Mrs. Cal Morgan, and a son, Henson McCracken."



WILLIAM NELSON McCracken

William Nelson McCracken was the son of John McCracken and Sarah Jane Webber. He was born 11 November 1828 in Daviess County, Indiana. On 27 March 1853 he married Sarah (Berry) McGehee who was the widow of his first cousin Charles McGehee. Sarah had one son, William Henry McGehee, who was born 2 December 1848. Her first marriage lasted less than two years and she was a widow when she was not quite nineteen years old.

William Nelson McCracken enlisted at the age of 32 as a private in Company "G" 42nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers on 28 September 1861 at the same time his three younger brothers and two first cousins enlisted. They were all mustered in at Evansville on 10 October 1861. He left a wife, four children and a step-son behind when he joined the 42nd.

The 42nd was in camp near Huntsville, Alabama from April until August 1862. Their duties included brigade drill, picket duty and building stockades. The men considered it "featherbed soldiering".

Confederate General Bragg and his men were then occupying Chattanooga, which was the key to transportation and communication in that part of the south. On August 19th General Bragg began his invasion of Kentucky, hoping to obtain supplies and recruit soldiers for his army. It was not long before the Federal forces at Huntsville, including the 42nd, began their march northward in pursuit of the Confederates. They marched from Huntsville to Louisville, Kentucky, in a month. During the grueling march they were cut off from supplies most of the time. Through parts of Kentucky the line of march often followed in the wake of the Confederate drive north. As a result, the countryside had been depleted of most of its food supply, and the water supply (which is normally poor during late summer) amounted to stagnant ponds which were often contaminated by dead mules left by the rebels.

"Nelson" was driving a regimental train wagon, and he became overheated due to the extremely hot weather. His left arm and shoulder "played out" and he had to be relieved from duty. He was treated in regimental hospitals several times during the next two years because of the chronic illness that he contracted on the march. In March of 1864 he was transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps and was discharged 14 October 1864 at Lexington, Kentucky.

William Nelson McCracken returned home to Daviess County. He and Sarah lived on farms in Barr and Reeve Townships and had five more children. They moved to Washington, Indiana, about 1893 and retired. Sarah died 25 September 1906 and William N. died 15 May 1910 at the age of 81. Both are buried in Mount Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.

The obituary of William N. McCracken:

"Nelson McCracken Passes

Another of the fast thinning ranks of the boys in blue passed to his eternal reward when William Nelson McCracken died at 1:10 o'clock Monday morning at his home 513 Cosby street. Mr. McCracken served three years in the war of the rebellion in the Forty-second Indiana regiment of Infantry and he was one of the best known veterans of the county.

Born November 11, eighty-one years ago, Mr. McCracken lived in Barr and Reeve townships until 1893 when he moved to Washington. He was a farmer and a man of high ideals, known for his honesty and integrity. He married Sarah Berry McGehee in 1853 and they had nine children. Mrs. McCracken died in this city in 1906. Mr. McCracken united with the Baptist church while a young man and his membership was with the Mt. Olive church in Barr township at the time of his death.

The surviving children are John B. McCracken of Hamilton, Washington; H.R. McCracken of Denver; Mrs. Nimrod Victor, Maynard, Minn; Mrs. Walter Levey and Mrs. Rolland Roselle of Pine Bluff, Ark; Mrs. Henry Villwock of Edwardsport; Mrs. Levi Hunter and Matthew McCracken of Washington. Besides these he leaves four brothers and sisters. They are John James McCracken of Maysville and Henry McCracken of Barr township, and Mrs. Henry Rudolph and Mary J. McCracken of Montgomery.

The death of Mr. McCracken was not expected. He had been declining for about a year and while bedfast for some time his condition did not become critical until last week. He suffered from ailments of old age."



RICHARD McGEHEE

Richard McGehee was born 16 July 1825 in Mayslick, Mason County, Kentucky. His parents were Jesse McGehee and Sarah McCracken. The McGehee family moved to Daviess County before 1840 and lived near the McCrackens in Barr Township. Three McGehee brothers served in the Civil War--none of them in the same unit.

Richard McGehee married Evaline Berry 13 January 1846 in Daviess County, Indiana and they had eight children. Two daughters died as children. In 1850 their household consisted of Richard, Evaline, their two small children and Sarah McGehee and her small son. Sarah (Berry) McGehee was the widow of Richard's brother Charles, and she was also the sister of Evaline (Berry) McGehee. This Sarah later married William Nelson McCracken. On the next farm lived the John McCracken family whose four sons (William N., John J., Thomas and Henry) enlisted in Company "G" 42nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers on 28 September 1861 at the same time that Richard McGehee enlisted. Two farms away Charles McCracken lived with his parents. He also joined the 42nd, making six very close relatives in the same unit.

Richard McGehee was 36 years old when he was mustered in as a private 10 October 1861 at Evansville, Indiana. He left his wife and six children in Daviess County. When the five day Battle of Stones River began Richard was a sharpshooter with the

rank of Corporal. He was assigned to picket duty with the 42nd on the night of 3 January. After midnight, the 42nd was attacked by the Confederates and in thirty to forty minutes they lost nearly half the total of 150 men killed and wounded in the entire battle. Richard was wounded in both thighs during the early morning hours of 4 January, and died as a result on 7 January 1863. He is buried in Murfreesboro National Cemetery.

The death of Richard McGehee left Evaline to raise six children alone. Tragedy continued to plague the family, however, and Evaline died 8 January 1865--just two years after her husband's death. Now the six children were orphans. The oldest daughter died a few months after her mother, leaving five orphans. They were appointed a guardian, but tradition has it that they were raised in different families of relatives. At this time most of the relatives lived in the same neighborhood and attended Mount Olive Baptist Church. It was common for them to take in children who needed a home and raise them along with their own.



WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON GILLEY

William Henry Harrison Gilley was born 6 March 1838. Both of his parents died by the time he was seven years old. William Ratton (who married Lucinda Gilley in 1843) was appointed guardian of William and four of his sisters who were under 14. When his sister Winney married Jesse Colbert, William H.H. Gilley was indentured to Jesse to learn the trade of farming. He lived near Hudsonville, Harrison Township, with Jesse and Winney Colbert until he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

On 28 September 1861 William H.H. Gilley enlisted as a private in Company "G" 42nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. He was mustered in at Evansville on 10 October 1861 at the age of 23.

Early in February 1862 the 42nd received orders to move to the area of Fort Donelson, Tennessee on the Cumberland River in preparation for a battle. The 42nd was to leave its camp at Calhoun and proceed to Owensboro, Kentucky, where it would be transported by steamer down the Ohio River and then up the Cumberland River to Fort Donelson. They responded to the order immediately and began striking tents and loading wagons. By 9:00 p.m. they were ready to march. During the night they marched twenty-six miles through rain, mud and slush. In the morning they boarded steamers which headed down the Ohio, stopping at Evansville just long enough for the men to greet a large crowd of friends and relatives.

It was during this time that William came down with typhoid fever which is an infectious and sometimes fatal bacterial disease spread by contaminated water or poor sanitary conditions. He was sent to a hospital in Evansville where he remained for three months.

Upon being released from the hospital, William H.H. Gilley reported to Pittsburg Landing. Benjamin Hopkins of Company "G" 42nd was also released from the hospital at the same time. They traveled together to Pittsburg, Tennessee (near Shiloh) expecting to rejoin their regiment. The regiment, however, had been sent in

another direction. They were placed with the 49th Ohio and did duty there until the fall of Corinth, Mississippi.

William never recovered from the effects of the Typhoid Fever. He returned to the 42nd and remained in the army, but was assigned to detached duty much of the time due to his health. On 9 October 1864 he was discharged at Villanova, Georgia, as a corporal.

He returned to Daviess County and lived with Jesse and Winney Colbert for a while. When his health permitted he farmed--some of the time for himself and some of the time as a hired hand. On 28 December 1864 William H.H. Gilley and Margaret Alice McCracken were married by Reverend Slater of Mount Olive Baptist Church. The Gilleys lived in Daviess County and continued their membership at Mount Olive until 1871 when they moved to Clay County, Illinois. They lived near Flora, Illinois, and William worked at farming and, for a short time, on the railroad.

William first applied for a pension in 1879. It was rejected, apparently for lack of hospital records from Evansville, Indiana. Several more attempts were made to secure a pension and it was finally granted in 1885. It took an Act of Congress to accomplish it.

In 1886 William and Margaret moved back to Washington, Indiana. They lived at 1306 W. Walnut. William H.H. Gilley died 26 October 1906 in Washington at the age of 68. Margaret received a widow's pension after his death. She lived at 1216 E. VanTrees and owned real estate valued at \$1200.00 and household goods valued at \$25.00. She lost her rights to a pension when she married John M. Jackman on 13 August 1911.

"Washington Gazette"  
Saturday, November 3, 1906

DEATH REMOVES W.H.H.GILLEY ... WAS A  
NATIVE OF DAVIESS COUNTY AND AN OLD  
SOLDIER

MEMBER CO. G, 42nd IND.  
His Illness Lasted But Three Days When the Last  
Reveille Was Heard Calling Him

Responding to the last reveille that mustered him out of service forever, W.H.H. Gilley answered the roll call at 2 o'clock Friday night. An illness of three days duration resulting from an attack of paralysis of the kidneys caused the death of another Union soldier of the rebellion.

The news of the death of Mr. Gilley came as a surprise and a shock to nearly everyone as few knew of his illness. He was down town on Wednesday evening of this week. Shortly after going home that evening he received the paralytic stroke and grew steadily worse until death.

He was born in this county near Hudsonville. All his life except three years during the war and a short residence in Illinois

was spent in this county. He enlisted in company "G" of the 42nd Indiana regiment volunteers September 27, 1861, and served in this company to the end of his enlistment. Captain Palmer speaks highly of the services rendered the country by this veteran. When he was mustered out of service he returned to Daviess county and for years made his home south of the city near Veale's creek church. Six years ago he moved to this city and since then has lived on east VanTrees street. Mrs. Gilley whose maiden name was McCracken survives him as do two sons Austin and Charles Gilley.

He was a member of the G.A.R. post of this city, the Red Men's lodge of this city and the First Baptist Church. He always took an active part in the organizations to which he belonged."



FRANCIS MARION HUNTER

Francis Marion Hunter was born 19 September 1845 in Barr Township, Daviess County, Indiana. His birth was recorded in the Bible that had belonged to his grandfather John Hunter, a Revolutionary War soldier. The Bible record reads "Franklin Marion Hunter" but his Civil War records give his name as Francis. The name he actually used was Frank. He was the fourth child of William Hunter and Martha Davis.

In September of 1861 Frank's older brothers Henry and Reuben enlisted in Company "G" 42nd Indiana Regiment of Volunteer Infantry. At the Battle of Perryville, 8 October 1862 the 42nd was attacked in a ravine where they were filling their canteens and eating their rations. The 42nd was ordered to break into companies and to reform at the top of the hill. In the confusion there were many casualties. Henry Hunter was killed and Reuben Hunter was wounded. Reuben received a medical discharge on 3 January 1863. A little more than a year later, Reuben enlisted again in the 42nd as a Corporal, and Francis Marion Hunter enlisted at the age of 18 and went off to war with his older brother.

The 42nd joined General Sherman's army at Chattanooga, Tennessee and fought in the Atlanta Campaign from 1 May through 8 September 1864. They fought at Buzzard's Roost Gap, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Allatoona Hills, Picketts' Mills, Pine Hill, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Smyrna Camp Ground, Nancy's Creek, and then Peachtree Creek. It was at Peachtree Creek, Georgia that Reuben Hunter was mortally wounded. He died at a Federal Field Hospital in Kingston, Georgia, 5 August 1864. Frank Hunter was also wounded at Peachtree Creek on the 20th of July. A rebel bullet hit him in the left shin. Frank was treated by a regimental surgeon and was soon returned to duty. The wound caused him a good deal of pain while on the marches that followed the Battle of Peachtree Creek, but it eventually healed completely.

Sherman's army soon occupied Atlanta. The next campaign was Sherman's March to the Sea. It began in Atlanta 15 November 1864 and ended in Savannah 21 December 1864. Then came the Carolinas Campaign early in 1865. The Grand Army of the West marched 425 miles from Savannah, Georgia to Goldsboro, North Carolina in fifty days.

The 42nd was present at the surrender of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston on 26 April 1865 near Durham Station, North Carolina. The war was nearly over. The 42nd began its long march to Washington, D.C. on the 29th of April and arrived in the capital city on the 19th of May where a Grand Review of the victorious armies was held on 23 and 24 May 1865.

Francis M. Hunter was discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, 21 July 1865 and returned home to Daviess County. Paul Hunter never remembered hearing his grandfather Frank talk about the Civil War. The subject must have brought many painful memories to the old man.

Tradition has it that the Hunter family moved to Texas and "burnt up" in the dustbowl. Most of the family moved up into Kansas except Frank who came back to Barr Township where he and Susan Dell Banta were married. Susan's parents were Abram T. Banta and Eliza Stephens, and her grandparents were William Stephens and Elizabeth McCracken. Franklin M. Hunter and Susan Dell Banta were married 27 December 1871.

Frank and Susan Dell lived in a log house built by Susan Dell's grandfather, Henry Banta. They purchased 72 acres of land in Barr Township that had been in the Banta family since 1818. Four of the five Hunter children were born in the log house. In 1888, a frame house which still stands, was built, and in 1889 Annie Gertrude, the youngest Hunter child was born there. The house is still owned by the Hunter family and is the home of Leota Hunter, widow of J. Paul Hunter.

Frank and Susan Dell celebrated their golden wedding anniversary 27 December 1921 with a family gathering. All five of their children and nine of their ten grandchildren celebrated with them. The highlight of the party was an elaborate wedding cake trimmed with sweet peas and gold letters. Baked inside the cake was a gold ring for Susan Dell and a gold pen for Frank. The gold ring is a treasured family heirloom. It now belongs to Jerome Hunter and was given to him by Curt Wildridge on the occasion of the golden wedding anniversary of Jerome's parents Paul and Leota Hunter.

Frank Hunter died 7 March 1924 from a heart attack brought on by the exertion of using an old fiddle-style seeder to sow grass seed. He was buried in Bethany Cemetery. One of the obituaries written about him said, "The deceased man whose word was as good as his bond was an outstanding representative of the fast-passing type of citizen that has done much to make Daviess County a leading Indiana community. It can be said with all candidness that in his death the county has suffered an irreparable loss."

Obituary from the "Washington Democrat", 7 March 1924

"Francis M. Hunter, age 78 years, died this morning at 8:40 at his home south of Montgomery. He had been in poor health for a long time, and had been confined to his bed for ten days. Mr. Hunter was a farmer, and was well known throughout the county. He leaves a widow and five children, Mrs. Daniel Liddle, of Vincennes, Austin Hunter, Mrs. Lewis Harris, and Mrs. Robert Wildridge, all of Barr township, and Mrs. Curtis Ellis of Steele township. He is also survived by a brother, William Albert Hunter, of Chanute, Kan., and a sister, Mrs. Laura McGehee, of Howard, Kan. He leaves ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mr. Hunter was a member of the Bethany Christian church, where the funeral services will be conducted Sunday morning at 10:30. Burial in the churchyard."



CHRONOLOGY OF THE 80th REGIMENT OF INDIANA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY



- 11 Aug 1862 - John P. Coup enlisted for 3 years at Vincennes.
- 8 Sept 1862 - John P. Coup mustered in at Princeton.
- 9 Sept 1862 - Unit left the state for Covington, Kentucky.
- 8 Oct 1862 - Battle of Perryville.
- Mid-October  
1862 - John P. Coup in hospital with pneumonia.
- 22 Dec -
- 2 Jan 1863 - Operations against Morgan's Raid in Kentucky.
- 2 July -
- 26 July 1863 - Operations against Morgan's Raid in Kentucky,  
Indiana and Ohio.
- 16 Aug -
- 19 Oct 1863 - Burnside's Campaign in East Tennessee.
- 16 Aug -
- 3 Sept 1863 - March over Cumberland Mountains to Knoxville.
- 4 Nov -
- 23 Dec 1863 - Campaign, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 24 Nov 1863 - Action, Kingston, Tennessee.
- 26 Jan 1864 - Skirmish near Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 1 May -
- 8 Sept 1864 - Campaign against Atlanta, Georgia.
- 14 May -
- 15 May 1864 - Battle of Resaca, Georgia.
- 25 May -
- 5 June 1864 - Battles near Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona  
Hills, Georgia.
- 27 May 1864 - Action, Pickett's Mills, Georgia.
- 15 June -
- 16 June 1864 - Combat near Lost Mountain, Georgia.
- 17 June 1864 - Action, Muddy Creek, Georgia.
- 19 June 1864 - Combat, Noyes' Creek, Georgia.
- 22 June 1864 - Combat, Kolb's Farm, Georgia.
- 27 June 1864 - Assault on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.
- 19 July 1864 - Action, Decatur, Georgia.
- 20 July 1864 - Action, Howard House, Georgia.
- 23 July -
- 25 Aug 1864 - Siege of Atlanta, Georgia.
- 31 Aug -
- 1 Sept 1864 - Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia.

- 2 Sept -  
5 Sept 1864 - Engagement, Lovejoy Station, Georgia.
- 3 Oct -  
26 Oct 1864 - Pursuit of Hood into Alabama.
- 24 Nov -  
27 Nov 1864 - Skirmishes near Columbia, Tennessee.
- 30 Nov 1864 - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.
- 15 Dec -  
16 Dec 1864 - Battle of Nashville, Tennessee.
- 17 Dec -  
28 Dec 1864 - Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River.
- 16 Jan -  
9 Feb 1865 - Movement to Washington, D.C. and then to Fort Fisher, North Carolina.
- 22 Feb 1865 - Occupation of Wilmington, North Carolina.
- 1 Feb -  
26 Apr 1865 - Campaign of the Carolinas.
- 23 Mar 1865 - Occupation of Goldsboro, North Carolina.
- 13 Apr 1865 - Occupation of Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 26 Apr 1865 - Surrender of Johnston and his army near Durham Station, North Carolina.
- 22 June 1865 - John P. Coup mustered out with his unit at Salisbury, North Carolina.



JOHN PHILLIP COUP

John Phillip Coup was born 25 May 1844 in Daviess County, Indiana. His parents were John Coup and Nancy McCracken. At the age of 18 he enlisted to serve three years in Company "G" 80th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He signed up on 11 August 1862 at Vincennes and reported for duty on the 3rd of September at Princeton, Indiana. He was mustered in at Indianapolis on September 8th where the 80th became part of the Army of the Ohio. The next day the new unit left the state for Covington, Kentucky and by October 1st they were in pursuit of the Confederate Army in Kentucky. Just one month after being mustered in, the 80th fought its first battle at Perryville, Kentucky, 8 October 1862. It is not surprising that the young untrained John P. Coup lost his knapsack, haversack and canteen during the battle. More about the battle can be found in another section of this book.

John P. Coup became ill soon after his first battle and spent several months recovering from pneumonia in an army hospital in Danville, Kentucky.

By April of 1863 John was promoted to Corporal. He served with the 80th until 22 June 1865 when he was mustered out at Salisbury, North Carolina at the end of the war. During its term of service, the 80th Indiana Infantry had 325 men killed or wounded and two taken prisoner. It traveled 7,245 miles; of which 1,050 was by water, 2,445 by railroad, and 3,750 on foot.

After the war, John returned to Daviess County for a short time where he married Mary Jane Hawkins 31 March 1868. They were divorced in December of 1876 and had no children.

It is not known exactly when John became involved with the circus business, but it was no later than 1878. He spent at least 50 years of his life in that business. John P. Coup was one of four brothers who made their livings in show business. John, George and Zack were full brothers--the children of John Coup and Nancy McCracken. William C. Coup was a child of the first wife who died at the age of 34 leaving several small children.

It was William C. Coup who first entered the circus business. His father owned a tavern near the Wabash and Erie Canal at Maysville, Indiana. He helped his father until at the age of 12 he became an apprentice printer. Two years later William left home and went to Terre Haute where he worked for a printer until a circus came through town. Excited by the chance to travel, William joined the circus and spent eight years as a roustabout before becoming a manager.

In the opinion of most circus historians, W.C. Coup ushered in the Golden Age of the American Circus, giving it many of its most spectacular features and designing the first show to take full advantage of rail transportation. In 1870 W.C. Coup persuaded P.T. Barnum to lend his name and to help finance Coup's ideas for the world's biggest circus. With Coup as general manager, the Barnum-Coup-Castello Circus billed as "The Great Enterprise" opened at Brookline, New York, on 10 April 1871 under three acres of canvas. It drew 10,000 people on opening night. Gross receipts were more than \$40,000 for the season. The next year W.C. Coup gave the show a new name, "Barnum's Traveling World's Fair" and enlarged the circus to two rings. He added one of the first giraffes ever exhibited in America, four wild Fiji cannibals and an aeronaut who made semi-weekly balloon ascensions. And, over P.T. Barnum's protests, he put the circus on railroad cars. The show played all the big cities, from Brunswick, New Jersey to Topeka, Kansas. The 1872 gross was almost a million dollars in six months.

Until his death in 1895 W.C. Coup owned or managed a variety of shows, museums, aquariums and even something called Coup's New United Monster Show. The three younger half-brothers, John P., George W., and Zachary T. were associated with him most of the time. For a while the four brothers owned the Coup Brothers New United Railroad Circus. After W.C. Coup's death, the remaining brothers continued on in many kinds of show business. In 1902 John P. was the business manager of the Boston Bloomers, a ladies' baseball team that traveled in its own railroad car.

John P. Coup married Nellie Brisnahan 4 October 1882 in Warren County, New York. They separated in the Fall of 1894 in Indianapolis when they ran into trouble with the law for passing counterfeit money. Nellie went home to Sandy Hill, New York, where their daughter, Margaret, was born 31 January 1895. About November of 1896 Nellie received word that John P. Coup had died and in August of 1897 she filed for a widow's Civil War pension. She soon found out that she was not a widow. It took until 1903 to straighten that out with the commissioner of pensions.

Zelda McDaniels was John P. Coup's next wife. She was also known as Zelda De Coupe, Smallest Athlete in the World (1912) and Ze-De-Qua, Strangest Little Woman on Earth With the Strangest History (1914) and Zilda Zingara, The Only Midget Lady Sircassion (1914). Zelda died about 1914 in Danville, Illinois.

On 20 September 1915 John P. Coup married Nora (Nave) Gardner in Covington, Kentucky. They apparently traveled together until about 1923 when they retired and moved to Nora's home town of Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Nora is the little lady pictured with John P. Coup elsewhere in this book.

Because of his health, John resided in the Soldier's Home at Danville, Illinois, from 7 February 1924 until 11 November 1926. After his release from the hospital facilities there, he returned to Harrodsburg where his wife Nora cared for him until his death 18 October 1932 at the age of 88. Although he never attained military rank above that of Corporal, at the time of his death John P. Coup was known as Colonel Phillip DeCoupe.

Obituary of John Phillip Coup:

"The Harrodsburg Herald, Friday, October 21, 1932

Colonel Phil DeCoupe, 88 years old, retired circus man and veteran of the Battle of Perryville, died at his home on the Burgin Pike Tuesday night and was buried with military honors Thursday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock.

Colonel DeCoupe, one of the most colorful characters of Mercer County, was taken ill suddenly Monday morning after suffering from a cold for several days. He attended services at the Christian Church Sunday, making a brief talk at Sunday School. Death was caused by acute pneumonia.

Colonel DeCoupe was born at Danville, Kentucky, but often said in recent years that he never had any real home until he moved here three years ago and retired from the show business with which he was identified during his entire life. His father was a stagecoach driver between Kentucky and Indiana.

Immediately after the Civil War, he joined the famous John Robinson circus and traveled with it throughout the entire world. He was connected with other widely known circuses and for the later part of his active career traveled throughout the United States with carnivals and street fairs.

He was married about 20 years ago to Mrs. Nora Nave, a midget and native of Mercer County, who was at that time traveling with shows. It was because of his marriage to Mrs. Nave that he selected Harrodsburg, her former home, in which to spend his last years. She is his only survivor.

Services were held at the home and were conducted by the Rev. T. Hassell Bowen, who received Colonel Coupe into the local Christian Church by confession after he reached the age of 85 years. Members of the Kentucky National Guards participated in the funeral and fired military salutes at the grave in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Casket bearers were as follows: Dr. J.B. Robards, T.C. Coleman, Charles Geffinger, H.C. Bohon, James Staff and John VanDivier."



CHRONOLOGY OF THE 65th INDIANA REGIMENT OF VOLUNTEER INFANTRY



During the term of service of Gabriel Moots

- 1 Aug 1863 - Gabriel Moots enlisted at Washington, Indiana, for 3 years.
- 7 Aug 1863 - Gabriel Moots mustered in at Knoxville, Tennessee. Joined Company "I" 65th in the field. 65th was a mounted unit at the time.
- 16 Aug -
- 19 Oct 1863 - Burnside's Campaign in East Tennessee.
- 2 Sept 1863 - Occupation of Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 18 Sept 1863 - Action at Kingsport, Tennessee.
- 19 Sept 1863 - Skirmish at Bristol, Tennessee.
- 20 Sept -
- 21 Sept 1863 - Action at Zollicoffer, Tennessee.
- 20 Sept -
- 21 Sept 1863 - Skirmish, Carter's Depot, Tennessee.
- 21 Sept 1863 - Action, Jonesboro, Tennessee.
- 22 Sept 1863 - Action, Carter's Depot, Tennessee.
- 22 Sept 1863 - Engagement, Blountsville, Tennessee.
- 10 Oct 1863 - Engagement, Blue Springs, Tennessee.
- 11 Oct 1863 - Skirmish, Henderson's Mill, Tennessee.
- 11 Oct 1863 - Action, Rheatown, Tennessee.
- 14 Oct 1863 - Skirmish, Blountsville, Tennessee.
- 15 Oct 1863 - Skirmish, Bristol, Tennessee.
- 4 Nov -
- 23 Dec 1863 - Campaign, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 19 Nov 1863 - Skirmish, Mulberry Gap, Tennessee.
- 1 Dec 1863 - Skirmish near Maynardsville, Tennessee.
- 2 Dec 1863 - Action, Walker's Ford, Clinch River, Tennessee.
- 14 Dec 1863 - Engagement, Bean's Station, Tennessee.
- 16 Dec -
- 19 Dec 1863 - Skirmishes, Blain's Cross Roads, Tennessee.
- 16 Jan 1864 - Skirmish, Kimbrough's Cross Roads, Tennessee.
- 17 Jan 1864 - Action, Dandridge, Tennessee.
- 27 Jan 1864 - Engagement near Fair Garden, Tennessee.
- 21 Apr 1864 - Regiment dismounted.
- 1 May -
- 8 Sept 1864 - Campaign against Atlanta, Georgia.
- 14 May -
- 15 May 1864 - Battle of Resaca. Gabriel Moots killed in action.