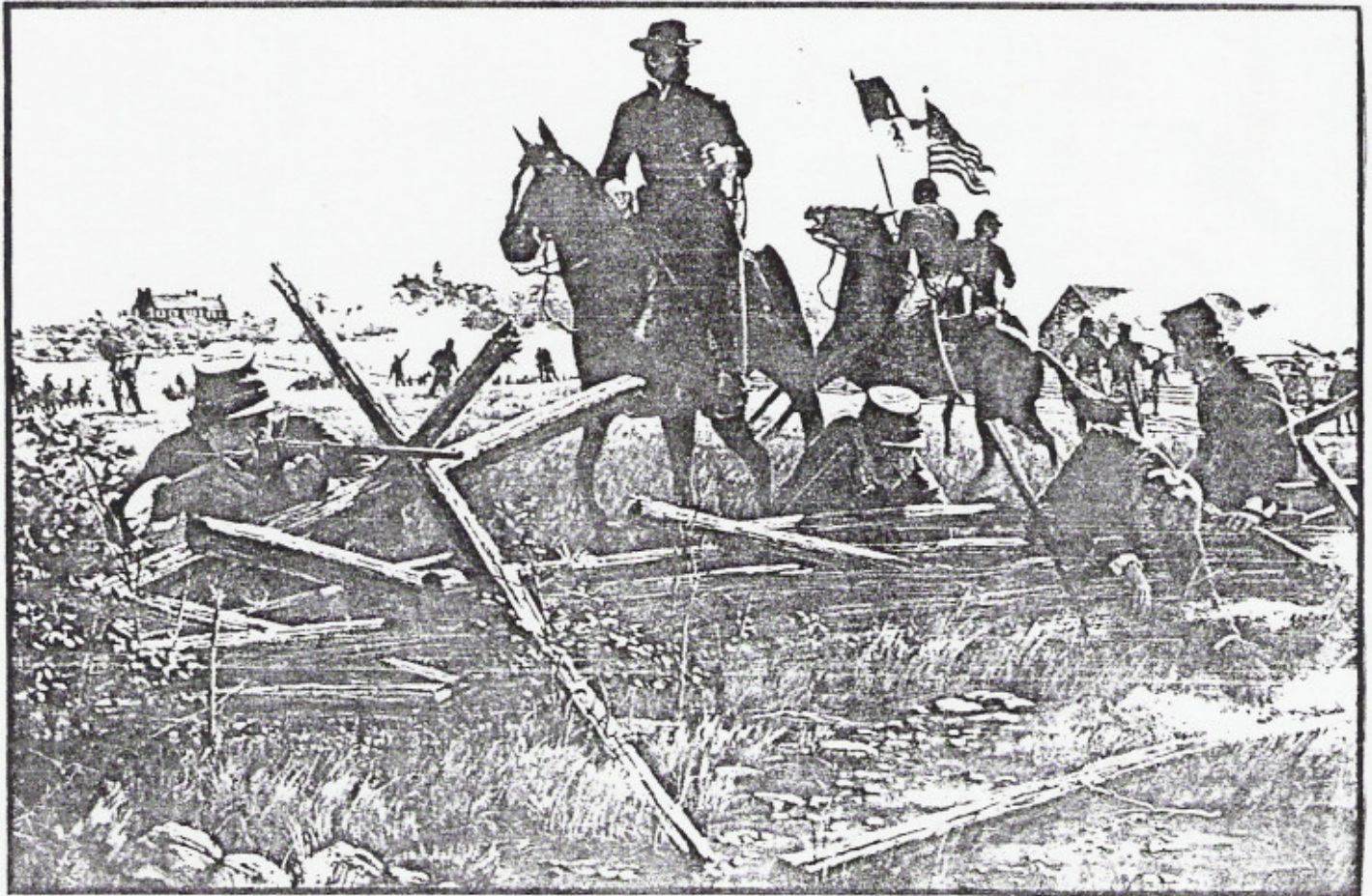


A CHAPTER IN THE SAGE FAMILY HISTORY
THE CIVIL WAR ODYSSEY OF MATERNAL GRANDFATHER

CALVIN FARNHAM JOHNSON



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SAGE
FAMILY MATERNAL GRANDFATHER

CALVIN FARNHAM JOHNSON

The following pages present a short synopsis of a period in the life of the grand-father of Florence Marie (Chapman) Sage, Calvin Farnham Johnson.

It highlights the extraordinary experiences encountered by Calvin as he fought for the Union in the Civil War. These experiences leave a unique legacy for the Sage family, and perhaps, provide some insights as to the character and fortitude passed on to the succeeding family generations through his grand daughter.

Records from the National Archives in Washington, DC indicate Calvin Farnham Johnson herein after referred to as CFJ was born in Wyndham, Vermont in 1830. He had settled in Bear Lake, Pennsylvania of Warren County where he made his livelihood as a blacksmith.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 states and cities formed regiments of volunteer soldiers to fight for the Union cause against the Confederate states. As a patriot caught up in the fever of the time, CFJ volunteered for 3 years service enlisting on 18 September 1862. He was mustered into the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment on 6 October 1862, receiving a bonus payment of \$215.00.

Most noteworthy of his action to "join the fight", was that he was already 32 years of age, with 3 young children at home.

16 Cav. Pa.

J
Calvin F. Johnson
Blacksmith, Co. L, 16 Reg't Pennsylvania Cav.

Age *32* years.

Appears on

Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated
Harrisburg Pa Nov, 186*2*

Muster-in to date *Oct. 6*, 186*2*

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When *Sept 18*, 186*2*

Where *Warren Co. Pa*

Period *3* years.

Bounty paid \$ *25* ¹⁰⁰; due \$ ¹⁰⁰

Valuation of horse, \$ ¹⁰⁰

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ ¹⁰⁰

Remarks:.....

Book mark:.....

(856)

George
Copist.

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
 CERTIFICATE
 OF DISABILITY FOR DISCHARGE.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Private Calvin H. Johnson, of Captain S. H. C. Kessler's Company, (2d) of the 16th Penna. Cav. Regiment of the United States was enlisted by L. C. Roberts of the 16th Regt of at Warren Co. Penna. on the 18th day of Sept., 1862, to serve 3 years; he was born in Myrskand in the State of Vermont, is 32 years of age, 5 feet 9 1/2 inches high, Dark complexion, Brown eyes, Brown hair, and by occupation when enlisted a Blacksmith. During the last two months said soldier has been unfit for duty 60 days.*

STATION: Mount Pleasant Gen. Hospital
 DATE: March 5th 1865

Allen
 Asst. Surg. U.S.A.
 Commanding Company
 "In charge"

I CERTIFY, that I have carefully examined the said Calvin H. Johnson of Captain S. H. Kessler's Company, and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of Sequence of Gunshot Wound apparently perforating Abdomen; ball entering left side and emerging from central portion left Lumbar region. Received at Battle of Trevillian Station (near Louisa Co. Va., June 11th 1864. Unfit for V.R.C. Degree of Disability 12.

Allen
 Asst. Surgeon. U.S.A.
 "In charge"

DISCHARGED, this 14th day of March, 1865, at Mount Pleasant Gen. Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Allen
 Asst. Surg. U.S.A.
 Commanding the Regt.
 "In charge"

The Soldier desires to be addressed at

Town Pine Valley County Warren State Penna.

* See Note 1 on the back of this. † See Note 2 on the back of this.

Inw Middle
cert No. 76.449
Calvin F. Bruce
Co. L., 16th Reg't Pa. Col. Co.



G. M. F. W. Ex'r.
Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C. Jan 5, 1898

Wanda

Sir:

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

Very respectfully,

Alfred B. ...

Calvin F. Johnson - Esq.
Spartanburg
Crawford Co. - Pa.

Commissioner.

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

Answer: *yes Harriet P Wright*

No. 2. When, where, and by whom were you married? Answer: *July 4, 1854*

Chyster Eaton Co Mich By Benjamin E Rich P, P

No. 3. What record of marriage exists? Answer: *Written Certificate*

No. 4. Were 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: *Olive H July 30 1855 Calvin C L Feb 4, 1857*

Charles H Apr 23 1859 Albert L Apr 27 1865

Alfred G March 30, 1869

Minnie M Dec 29, 1871

Eva M Aug 29, 1873

Cecil F March 22 1878

Date of reply, *Jan 20*, 1898.

Calvin F Johnson
(Signature)

FLORENCE MARIE CHAPMAN GENEALOGY

b. 12/4/1830
d. 7/13/1914

Calvin Farnham JOHNSON

(Harriet Wright)

b. 12/25/182
d. ? /190

b. 7/30/1855
d.

Olive JOHNSON

(William CHAPMAN)

b.
d.

b. /1886
d. 10/19/1942

Fay CHAPMAN

(Nettie Frances)

b. 1/30/1884
d. /1918

b. 2/4/1909
d. 6/4/1993

Florence CHAPMAN

(Harley SAGE)

b. 12/1/1909
d. 7/13/1993

b. 8/14/1933

Robert A. SAGE

Gladys J. COOK

b. 11/10/193

b. 1/6/1936

Darrell D. SAGE

b. 8/9/1939

Carol A. SAGE

CALVIN FARNHAM JOHNSON

A HISTORY OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE CIVIL WAR

BACKGROUND

The genesis of the following narrative began in 1991 when mother Florence Marie (Chapman) Sage related that her grandfather, Calvin Farnham Johnson, had been wounded in the Civil War at Gettysburg. As a Civil War history buff an on-and-off project of research into the background of our ancestor was initiated. Official military records from the National Archives were obtained; research of the Official Records (ORs) was conducted at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA; and visits were made to the Gettysburg, PA battlefield, the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, PA, and the battlefield site at Trevilian Station, Virginia. What follows is a chronology, description and narrative of the remarkable events experienced and endured by Grandfather Johnson. While perhaps more detailed in military background than some would care to peruse, the information provided may perhaps enlighten those who are interested a unique journey by one of the family's founders.

Because Grandfather Johnson's travels were orchestrated, directed and influenced by some of the most famous, infamous and colorful individuals in the Civil War, it is appropriate that the military organization within which he operated be outlined. As previously indicated, he was mustered into the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry (161st PA Volunteer Regiment) on 6 October 1862. Within the Regiment, he was further assigned to Company "L". Eventually his Company Commander was one Captain Isaac H. Ressler whose diary, complete to the end of the conflict in 1865, is a unique document in itself.

With the focus on the Battle at Trevilian Station, the "chain of command" placed the 16th PA Cavalry REGIMENT (LT COL John K. Robinson, Commanding) within COL J. Irving Gregg's SECOND BRIGADE; of BRIG. GEN. David McMurtrie Gregg's SECOND DIVISION. (General Gregg and Colonel Gregg were cousins, not an unusual occurrence in the Civil War). The SECOND and FIRST Divisions comprised the CAVALRY CORPS of the ARMY OF THE POTOMAC under the command of Major General Philip H. Sheridan, one of the Union's most famous wartime generals. This force consisted of five Brigades, 22 Regiments and three batteries of Horse Artillery, some 8000 Cavalry troopers.

The following pages chronicle three distinct phases of Grandfather Johnson's Civil War journey: 1863 to Gettysburg; Detached duty with SECOND CORPS; and 24 August 1864 until his wounding in battle at Trevilian Station, 11 June 1864.

CALVIN FARNHAM JOHNSON

HIS CIVIL WAR JOURNEY - ENLISTMENT TO GETTYSBURG 1863

After assignment to the 16th PA Cavalry the tides of war were slow to engulf Grandfather Johnson, but when they did, he was engaged in many of the critical battles of the Army of the Potomac. During the fall/winter of 1862/1863 the 16th was on picket duty at the Potomac Creek railroad bridge. On 17 March 1863, the regiment engaged in its first battle at Kelly's Ford at the initiation of the Rappahannock campaign. Quickly following was the Chancellorsville campaign in April/May 1863; battles which included Stoneman's cavalry raid near Richmond, and Kelly's Ford (again) and Ely's Ford.

On 9 June 1863 the major battle at Brandy Station, VA took place. Frequently claimed as the largest cavalry battle of the war, infantry and regular artillery units there were involved; therefore, the honor of the largest ALL CAVALRY battle belongs to Trevilian Station, described later. Another major skirmish took place on 17 June at Aldie as Union and Confederate forces converged on Gettysburg, PA.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, 1-3 June, the 16th arrived late on the evening of 2nd helping to stem the rebel advance near Culp's Hill. On the 3rd the 16th was involved in the large cavalry battle on the Union right flank. The Confederates were led by cavalry General Jeb Stuart and infantry General Richard Ewell. Union cavalry was under the command of General David Gregg, with General George Custer playing a pivotal role with a series of dramatic charges. While history extols the Union victory at Gettysburg due to the failure of "Pickett's Charge", that the Union cavalry under General Gregg, with the 16th PA Cavalry involved, prevented the Confederates from turning the Union right flank is a moment at Gettysburg that deserves more recognition. At Gettysburg, the 16th PA Cavalry monument is located near the area of the cavalry engagement, about 10 miles northeast of the city and center of the major infantry battle sites. Also, it is here noted that Grandfather Johnson was NOT WOUNDED in this battle as had been rumored through the years.

HIS CIVIL WAR JOURNEY - DETACHED DUTY WITH THE 2ND CORPS

On 24 August 1863 Grandfather Johnson was detached from the 16th and assigned to Provost Marshal duties at the headquarters of General Hancock's SECOND CORPS. There is little information about his actions there except an apparent involvement in General Kilpatrick's raid in and around Richmond in February 1864. He returned to the 16th on 10 April 1864 when all detached cavalry were consolidated into the Cavalry Corps under the command of General Philip Sheridan. This Corps would now become an independent force. The Battle of Trevilian Station was now only 2 months away.

CALVIN FARNHAM JOHNSON

HIS CIVIL WAR JOURNEY - WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF TREVILIANS

Upon his return to the 16th, Grandfather Johnson was soon back in action. Most significant battles were on 11 May at Yellow Tavern and 31 May - 1 June at Cold Harbor. His old Gettysburg adversary - General Jeb Stuart - was killed at Yellow Tavern. From Cold Harbor General Grant ordered General Sheridan to move northwest to join up with General Hunter, who was moving down the Shenandoah Valley. The objective was to disrupt the Confederate supply lines.

Departing 7 June 1864 the Union cavalry bivouacked the evening of 10 June 3 miles from Trevilian Station. The Union forces were oriented east/west north of the railroad. The Confederate Cavalry Corps, now commanded by General Wade Hampton, with General Fitzhugh Lee and General Thomas Rosser key unit commanders, faced the Union south of the railroad. The Battle of the Trevilivans commenced early on 11 June.

A thrust by General Custer enabled his Brigade to get between Rosser and Fitz Lee's units, and in the rear of Young's Brigade, capturing wagon trains and prisoners. Because Fitz Lee's forces were late arriving on the field, Custer soon found his Brigade surrounded on three sides. Fierce fighting ensued as Custer struggled to avoid disaster. To prevent Custer from being captured or killed, the SECOND BRIGADE of COL Gregg charged into the right flank of Fitz Lee's troopers which enabled Custer and his men to extricate themselves back to the north and safety of the Union lines. It was during this SECOND BRIGADE charge that Calvin Farnham Johnson of the 16th PA Cavalry was wounded, shot through the abdomen. The wound is illustrated on the overleaf.

POSTSCRIPTS

The Battle of the Trevilians continued on 12 June. The SECOND BRIGADE tore up railroad tracks while other units fought to a standoff with the Confederates. The Union force commenced withdrawal to City Point on the James River that evening. It is difficult to comprehend the physical and mental torture that Grandfather Johnson must have endured during his wagon ambulance trip and eventual river vessel journey over 9 days until his admittance to the Mount Pleasant Hospital in Washington, DC on 21 June 1864. He would remain there under treatment and convalescence until his discharge from the Army on the 17th of March 1865 --- only 23 days before General Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

In the analysis of the Battle of the Trevilians one could argue that the SECOND BRIGADE, the 16th PA Cavalry and Grandfather Johnson's efforts at Trevilians saved General Custer for his place in history later at Little Big Horn.

DUPLICATE.

4

SURGEON'S CERTIFICATE

OR

PERIODICAL EXAMINATION

IN CASE OF

C. Win Johnson

to *Co 16 Reg't, Penn Cav*

No. *76,449*

DATE OF EXAMINATION

September 4-77

C. D. Wilcox
Examining Surgeon.

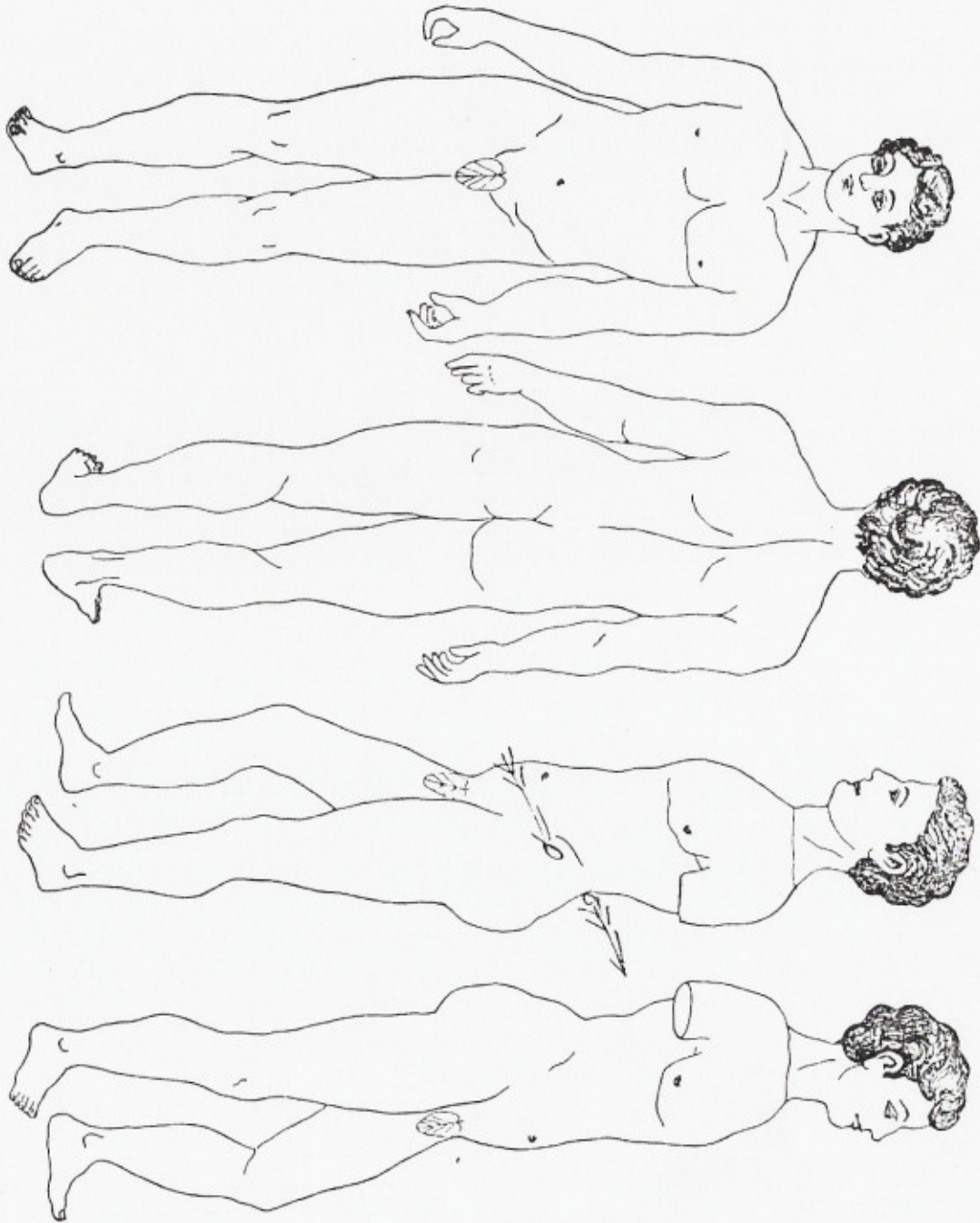
Post Office, *Lomp*

County, *Eric*

State, *Penna*

P. S.—Write Post Office address plain and in full.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Return of Casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

THE TREVILIAN RAID, JUNE 7-24, 1864.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
CAVALRY CORPS.							
Maj. Gen. PHILIP H. SHERIDAN.							
<i>Trevilian Station and Newark (or Mallory's Cross-Roads), June 11-12, 1864.</i>							
HEADQUARTERS ESCORT.							
6th U. S. Cavalry				3		1	4
FIRST DIVISION.							
Brig. Gen. ALFRED T. A. TORBERT.							
<i>First Brigade.</i>							
Brig. Gen. GEORGE A. CUSTER.							
Staff					1		1
1st Michigan	2	10	3	20	2	62	99
5th Michigan		4	4	7	1	135	151
6th Michigan		7	1	21	1	59	89
7th Michigan		2	1	25		48	76
Total First Brigade	2	23	9	73	5	304	416
<i>Second Brigade.</i>							
Col. THOMAS C. DEVIN.							
4th New York	1	5	5	27		6	44
6th New York		2	1	10		27	40
9th New York		4	3	38		5	50
17th Pennsylvania		5		19		2	26
Total Second Brigade	1	16	9	94		40	160
<i>Reserve Brigade.</i>							
Brig. Gen. WESLEY MERRITT.							
19th New York (1st Dragoons)		16	4	57	1	7	85
6th Pennsylvania		6	1	55		5	67
1st United States	2	6	1	31		5	45
2d United States	1	7	2	38	1	4	51
5th United States	1	2		6		4	13
Total Reserve Brigade	4	37	8	185	2	25	261
Total First Division	7	76	26	352	7	369	837
SECOND DIVISION.							
Brig. Gen. DAVID McM. GREGG.							
<i>First Brigade.</i>							
Brig. Gen. HENRY E. DAVIES, JR.							
1st Massachusetts						2	2
1st New Jersey		1		2		3	6
10th New York	1	3	1	15			20
1st Pennsylvania						1	1
Total First Brigade	1	4	1	17		6	29
<i>Second Brigade.</i>							
Col. J. IRVIN GREGG.							
2d Pennsylvania	1			5		1	7
4th Pennsylvania		2	3	23	1	2	31
8th Pennsylvania		5		16		5	26
13th Pennsylvania		1		2		6	9
16th Pennsylvania		2	1	13			16
Total Second Brigade	1	10	4	59	1	14	89
Total Second Division	2	14	5	76	1	20	118

SUMMARY

The saga of Calvin Farnham Johnson during the Civil War, as described and illustrated, should be considered rightfully as unique family history. It also is a study in dogged perseverance and fortitude.

From his discharge from the service on 17 March 1865 until his death on 13 July 1914, a period of over 49 years, CFJ repeatedly submitted required documents and physician's affidavits in an attempt to get an increase in his pension. The initial pension was \$2.00 per month. The National Archives provided 38 separate documents in his efforts over those 49 years. The efforts were not all in vain, as at the time of his death, his pension had increased to the royal amount of \$30.00 per month. That he based his claims on constant diarrhea caused by his gunshot wound, was in all probability a sound basis, and a testament to his fortitude.

As a final, and totally ironic post script to his lengthy battle to have his pension increased, his final check for 3 months of July, August and September 1914 in the amount of \$90.00 was returned to the U.S. Treasury by the Postal Service because of his death on 13 July

Another interesting fact: While he was hospitalized from 21 June 1864 until 17 March 1865, he was furloughed to home from 22 July to 8 September 1864. A son, Albert S. was born on 27 April 1865. Not everything internal was damaged by his wartime wound! Four other children were born after Albert; a total of 8 !!

A. S.

3-1081

PENSIONER DROPPED

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS

OCT 26 1914

Certificate No. 76449, 191
Class ACT OF MAY 11, 1912
Pensioner Calvin F. Johnson
Soldier
Service L-16 Pan. Cav.

The Commissioner of Pensions.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the name of the above-described pensioner who was last paid at \$ 30. to July 4, 1914, has this day been dropped from the roll because of death July 13, 1914.

Very respectfully,

W. W. Russell
Chief, Finance Division.

NOTE.—Every name dropped to be thus reported at once, and when cause of dropping is death, state date of death when known.

6-2219

LIVING HISTORY IN PICTURES

Directly opposite is a photo of Grandfather Johnson, seated, and three more generations of his family. At left is his daughter, Olive Johnson Chapman Florence M. Chapman's mother. At right is Iva L. Chapman Pell another of Olive's daughters, and her son Ruel.

Below is a shot of Calvin F. Johnson's dog drawn buggy taken about 1900 with what appears to be a Civil War reenactment group. The dogs were "Joe" and "Pete". The Johnsons were reported to take excursions in the "dog powered buggy" from their home in Bear Lake, PA to Westfield, NY regularly.



CAVALRY BATTLE OF TREVILIANS, VIRGINIA SITE MARKER
BATTLE TOOK PLACE 11 AND 12 JUNE 1864



TREVILIANS, VIRGINIA TRAIN STATION AS EXISTING IN 1998
FOCAL POINT OF BATTLE OF TREVILIANS 11 AND 12 JUNE 1864



16TH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY REGIMENT MONUMENT AT GETTYSBURG



16TH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY REGIMENT MONUMENT AT GETTYSBURG



BEAR LAKE/PINE VALLEY PENNSYLVANIA CEMETERY
LOCATED ON RURAL ROAD 4 MILES SOUTH OF BEAR LAKE, PA
AND 5 MILES EAST OF COLUMBUS, PA OFF OF PA ROUTE 957



BEAR LAKE/PINE VALLEY CEMETERY
JOHNSON FAMILY BURIAL PLOT AREA AND MONUMENTS



HEADSTONE AND FINAL RESTING PLACE OF
CALVIN FARNHAM JOHNSON, 16TH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY
BORN 4 DECEMBER 1830 DIED 13 JULY 1914

