

Cpl. Brown etched In stone



By Karen Zach, Around the County

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Philip "Mark" Brown, buried in Oak Hill Cemetery is our soldier this week, joining Co D of the 116th (at age 20) where he was a corporal, serving the whole six months of the 116th's existence. The 116th was active from Aug. 17, 1863 to March the 2nd the next year and lead the Morgan, Hines and Newburg raids, plus fought in at least the Battle of Blue Springs, Walker's Ford, Pogue's Run and a few skirmishes.

Although more than one source said they only lost one man in battle and 64 to disease (average about 11 per month, which is mind blowing), the 1881 Beckwith History for Montgomery County had more than a dozen listed as KIA, plus William Gillian dying in Andersonville Prison. Quite a difference in information. The group spent most of the time in Eastern Tennessee. Mark Brown would become a pensioner for his part in the Civil War. Philip Mark Brown was named for his father which was a bit odd since our soldier had two older brothers. Mark was born near Trenton, New Jersey in what became Mercer County just a few years after his birth. His brother, Joseph was born the same year of his parents, Philip Mark, Sr. and Margaret Wilson's marriage in 1824. Other children of the older Browns consisted of at least Isaac, David and Margaret. The family came to Fountain County near Waynetown in 1843. Both of Mark's parents were born in New Jersey; Philip 3 May 1803, his wife 11 March 1805. They are buried together in Elmdale. He passed first in November 1867 and she followed in the fall of the year in 1870. Most of their children remained in the area, Joe being a farmer and well loved man just into Tippecanoe County, David was buried in Elmdale and Margaret Largent (her husband, James Knox Polk Largent – love that name) is also buried in Elmdale. Isaac however moved west to Altona, Nebraska, having married his neighbor in Fountain County, Judith Insley. There were several Philip Marks born in these families in the next couple of generations.

Mark married twice, his first wife being Eliza Jane Campbell. Likely Mark had no property of his own but worked for local farmers in John Quincy Adams Township in Warren County, Richland Township in Fountain and Wayne in Tippecanoe as well as Montgomery. Eliza was born in 1841 and passed away a few years prior to our soldier. Surprisingly, after having been married for 40 years, they are not buried together as she is in Dry Run Cemetery in Mellott. Eliza and Mark had seven children but only four to grow to adulthood: Sophia, Turpin, Asa, and Mae but no Philip or Mark unless these were ones who passed young. Sophia married William Manson Bacon the day after Valentines Day in 1888 but died just 11 years later. They had two children, Mae and Cecil. Turpin and Asa went to California where they raised oranges. Mae married George Ferguson in 1900 and lived in the Mellott area at the time of her father's death. Eliza and Mark helped raise one of their granddaughters, as well (Edna, Asa's daughter). Asa returned to Indiana moving to Medora and passed away at close to 90. Not sure what happened to Turpin. One other child is known but again not sure where he went but Charles likely died young. When Mark's dear Eliza passed away at age 65 in October of 1907, he remarried Sarah Margaret Semonis Randolph. They were not married too many years before his death October 19th in 1915 at their home, 304 N. Green. She lived on his Civil War Pension but ended dying in June 1929 at the Lafayette Soldier's home. She had four Randolph children, all grown at the marriage of the Browns.

Mark was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) organization and lived in Crawfordsville just five years before passing away in failing health the whole time. Now, thanks to Kim Hancock and Suzi Petrey, his name, rank, and dates are Etched In Stone. Rest in Peace, Philip Mark Brown.

