

David Shields

David Shields was born on March 28, 1835 in Carmi, White, IL to Samuel William Shields and Sarah Roe (Rowena) Barnes. His mother was married numerous times. David's father died in 1841 at Carmi and is in a now unmarked grave. David and Mary Candice Goodwin announced their intentions to be married on December 5, 1854 before the county clerk Richard S. Graham. Mary was b. 1840/1 the daughter of Elijah Goodwin and Mary Van Winkle. David and Mary were married on December 7, 1854 by Justice of the Peace R. D. Campbell. On October 1, 1856 David purchased by SW sale type the SWSE corner of section 12, township 065, range 10E, meridian 3, 40 acres at the price of \$1 per acre recorded in volume SWP, page 036 of the White County records. On November 11, 1857 David and His brother Samuel sold 70 acres of land to Lewis W. Patten for \$150. On September 13, 1861 David enlisted as a Private in Company H of the 48th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was described as being 5' 8" tall, sandy colored hair, a sandy complexion, and having blue eyes. He was present on the company rolls until the term of his enlistment ended on April 30, 1864. He re enlisted and at some time during his second enlistment he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. David was captured near Dallas, Georgia on May 28, 1864. He was held there until being taken to Savannah, Georgia and paroled in a prisoner exchange on November 19 1864. He reported to Camp Parole in Maryland on November 26, 1864. The Army then put him on furlough on December 4, 1864 for 30 days to report to Camp Chase, Ohio and arrived there on January 11, 1865. He was sent to the Provost Marshall there on January 13th. David was honorably discharged on August 24, 1865 at Littlerock, Arkansas. According to the correspondences of Harriet Miller and Bethia Marshall, David's wife Mary died near the close of the war. Julia was taken to Green County, Wisconsin by her Uncle Samuel Sherman Shields and Aunt Rhoda Ann (Shields) King ,who at that time was married to William D. Lacey, after the death of Julia's mother Mary. The correspondences also mention James Pervine Atwood and Elizabeth Barnes who were both relatives of David. David is listed in the History of White County, Illinois but only for his military service. On October 24, 1869 David was married to Anna Brace at Spring Grove Township in Green County, Wisconsin and they had 3 children: Mytta Ann b. August 4, 1873 in Idana, Clay County, KS; Sarah June b. November 7, 1875 at the same place; and Ada b. 8 - 13 - 1876 also at Idana. David's mother Sarah died at Idana on January 22, 1880 and was buried in the Shields Cemetery in Idana. David appears on the 1881 plat map for Clay County, Kansas. On February 14, 1879 is on the Final Receivers Receipt of Homestead from U.S. book E, page 508. From The Dispatch newspaper of Clay Center, Kansas reads this article "Dave Shields, who for the past 6 years has lived here supporting himself by peddling and asking favor from the citizens, has been notified by U.S. Commissioner Black that his pension has been allowed. He has been trying for the past ten years to get one and since he is about to succeed, we suppose there is no one who knows him that will envy him his luck". In 1886 his daughter Julia died at Clay County, after spending a number of years at the Insane Assylum at Topeka, and was buried at the Shields Cemetery at Idana with her grandmother and other relatives. It was shortly after this that David and family returned to Green County, Wisconsin. On Wednesday, February 8, 1888 it is announced that David Shields will give lectures at the Brodhead schools on Friday, February 10th about his experiences at Andersonville Prison for an admission price of 10 cents. David told of being parched of thirst and having relief from a spring of water breaking through the wooden floor. In his later years David enjoyed work in his garden and resting in his rocking chair on his shaded porch singing the gospel music. His favorite was "Happy Day That Fixed My Choice". On the June 9, 1900 census David is listed as a resident of the National Home for Soldiers. On October 10, 1894 David's daughter Ava died at the home of her sister Sarah in Monroe, Wisconsin. David Shields died on January 5, 1911 at his home. His last words were "with all my pain and misery death is well". He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Note: Only David's father Samuel Shields is mentioned in the unpublished works of John A. Shields, however he is discussed through the 1966 publication by Howard Jones.