
1838 Jun 29: Joseph Thompson Harper was born in Harrison County, OH to Samuel and Cassandra Harper.

1849 July 30: Joseph’s father Samuel died.

1850 November 14: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Archer, Harrison County, OH showed 12-year-old Joseph living with his widowed mother and siblings.

1852 July 23: Joseph’s mother, Cassandra, died leaving all her children orphaned.

1861 August 20: Joseph enlisted in the U.S. Army. His brother James had enlisted earlier in the month into the same regiment, different company. Joseph mustered into the 2 IA Cavalry. James contacted measles and was sent home.

1864 November 30: Joseph fought at the Battle of Franklin. His regiment engaged across the Harpeth River with the Confederate Cavalry.

1865 September 19: Joseph mustered out of the U.S. Army with his regiment in Selma, AL.

1869 January 28: Joseph married Mary McVey in Poweshiek County, IA.

1880 June 8: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Victor, Iowa County, IA showed Joseph, a hotel keeper, living with Mary and their three children.

1887 Joseph was a founding member of the Ulysses S. Grant Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

1892 October 30: Joseph applied for and was granted a Military pension for his service in the Civil War. His application was submitted in Iowa.

1910 September 20: Joseph Thompson Harper died. His death appeared in various local newspapers the next day.
October 3: Joseph’s widow, Mary, applied for and was granted a widow’s pension for her husband’s service in the Civil War. Her application was submitted in Illinois.

Biographical Sketch:

“Harper, J.T.—Hotel-keeper, Victor. Was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on the 29th day of May, 1838, where he lived until he was about fourteen years of age, when he lost both of his parents and went to live with his uncle in Guernsey county, where he remained about two years, then came to Iowa in the year 1854 and settled in Poweshiek county near Dresden, where he lived, laboring on a farm, until the war broke out. Then enlisted in company H, Second Iowa cavalry, and was mustered into the United States service on the 14th day of August, 1861, at Davenport. He served with this regiment for the term of his enlistment; re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. His regiment did more travel, more fighting, captured more prisoners and saw more real service than any regiment from Iowa. It would be impossible to mention all the engagements in which they took part; suffice it to say that they scouted the entire
country from the Ohio River on the north to Mobile Bay on the south, and from the Mississippi on the west to the Cumberland Mountains on the east, and were in numberless skirmishes. Some of its important engagements were Farmington, first and second Corinth, Iuka, Coffeville, the celebrated Grierson raid and in October, 1863, the terrible battle of Collierville. During the entire year of 1863 they were actively engaged in scouting duty, during which time they many times met the enemy. They took part in the battle of Tupelo and engaged Hood from the Tennessee River to Nashville and back; were in the battles of Columbia and Franklin and were mustered out at Selma, Alabama, in September, 1865, where they had been on garrison duty for some time after the war closed. He was married January 28, 1869, to Miss Mary A. McVey, who is still living. By this union they have three children: Mattie C., Lula E. and Harriet H.”

(The History of Iowa county, Iowa: Containing a History of the County, Its Cities, Towns... 1881 Pg 579-580)