

Third in a Series—Biographies of our Ancestors

The Union Ancestors of Patrick and Garrett Chapman

The following two ancestor biographies are for two Union veterans from which Patrick M. Chapman and his son Garrett descend. As you might remember, Garrett was the young Cub Scout who was initiated into junior membership at the Sultana event on 3 May 2015.

The first biography is for **Canada Hodge Rogers** (1826—1893):

Rogers lived in Speedwell, Claiborne County, TN. He is Patrick's 4th great grandfather and Garrett's 5th great grandfather. He was the 13th and last child of David and Mary Elizabeth "Polly" Lewis. He married Nancy Malinda Vanbebber in 1846 at 20 years of age. He enlisted into Company C of the 1st Regiment, East Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, on 9 Aug 1861 at age 35. He and Nancy had 6 of their eventual 13 children at that time including our ancestor, Isaac, who was 5 years old. He entered the army in Tazewell, TN as an enlisted man with the rank of Sergeant, and was later promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 5 Sep 1861.

He served in Kentucky in the area of Barboursville and Somerset. He was "sick with fever" for a period of about 8 weeks and then joined his company just before the battle of Mill Springs. By 5 Nov 1862 he was "on detached service" from the company, meaning assignment away from one's home unit. It is unknown what Canada's assignment was away from his unit. Possibilities include spying, obtaining supplies or a variety of other potential assigned duties. Nevertheless, while he was separated from his unit, he was captured by a rebel command under Major Montgomery and placed in a prison in Knoxville. He remained there about 8 months until June 1863 when he escaped by jumping from a window 15 feet off the ground. By the end of June, he had rejoined his regiment in Lancaster, KY and served with them until 17 Sep 1864.

A memo from Union General Carter to Union Major General Burnside 18 May 1863 called for action regarding Lt Rogers and another officer imprisoned with him. The memo conveyed that the two Union officers were imprisoned for life in irons and he called for the imprisonment of two rebel officers in irons until the release of Rogers and Captain Denton, the second prisoner.

In 1885, at age 59, he filed for a Union Army Pension based on medical issues he believed were caused by exposure while a prisoner. In the winter of 1863 and 64, while with his company in Meigs County, he was attacked with "Rheumatism". In 1869, he became "ruptured" because of weakness. He stated that since his discharge, he had not able to do any "heavy or fatiguing labor" and since he was a farmer that work had to be done by others. He died in 1893 at the age of 67.

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The second biography is for **James Houston Shelby** (1844 – 1921):

Shelby lived in Lost Creek, Union Co, TN and is Patrick's 3rd great grandfather and Garrett's 4th great grandfather. James was the oldest of 10 children of John and Nancy Naomi Sheckels Shelby. He enlisted as a private in Company A, 2nd Regiment Tennessee Calvary. He was 18 and he was described as being fair with blue eyes and light hair. He was 5' 7" tall and a farmer. He mustered in on 1 Aug 1862 in Jacksboro, TN. He is shown in Murfreesboro, TN in 1862 and 63 and spent time in the USA Small Pox Hospital. By Mar 1863, he was promoted to Corporal and by May 1865, he was in Vicksburg, MS. There, he was also hospitalized for a period.

He married Virginia A Cassell in 1866 and they had 10 children with Great-Great Grandmother Nettie Naomi being the 9th. Virginia died in 1902 and at age 60, in 1905, James married Eliza Butler. James died of a stroke at age 76.

Tradition holds that the Shelby's of Union County descended from Evan Shelby, distinguished veteran of the Revolutionary War and brother of Isaac Shelby, first Governor of Kentucky. However, the actual line of descent has not been verified past Samuel Shelby, the grandfather of James, despite DNA evidence linking descendants of Samuel to the well documented Shelby family. The search continues for the missing links.

