

Ila Travis McErlean

Delavan, WI

Ila's Great Grandfather is

Francis Willet Travis 9th Light Artillery, Wisconsin

Francis Willet Travis was born 31 Dec 1845 in Elba, Genesee Co, NY. He was the son of Nathaniel & Juliette (Julia) Anne Griffin. He came to Walworth County with his parents in 1850 when he was four years old.

He joined the Union Army in 1863. He served as a private in the 9th LA Reg WI. Most of the war he served in the West, Fort Larned, KS fighting the Indians. He was mustered out at Ft Leavenworth, KS on 30 Sep 1865.

He returned home and married Olive Maria Waite, daughter of Joseph and Elvira (Weeks) Waite. She was born 5 Sep 1849 in New York.

Francis was a farmer and a beekeeper. He was a member of Luther Crane GAR. Olive was the first organist at Lyons Methodist Episcopal Church.

Francis died of Lacamotor Ataxia. He was an invalid for 17 years prior to his death.

Olive and their youngest son Roy died within 5 days of each other, from diphtheria. Willet (Francis' son) also had the disease but survived. He brought it home from school he was attending in Dickson, IL.



Francis and Olive Travis



Francis Travis Headstone

9th Wisconsin Light Artillery

The Ninth Battery of Wisconsin Light Artillery was organized at Burlington, WI, and mustered into the service of the United States on January 27, 1862. In the latter part of March the battery was transferred to Camp Utley, Racine, WI, and from there to St. Louis, MO. In April, 1862, the battery moved up the Missouri river to Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and on the 26th of April left there for the march westward "Across the Plains," arriving at Denver, Colorado Territory, on the 2nd of June, 1862. On June 5th, one section of the battery left Denver for Ft. Union in New Mexico. The other sections of the battery were stationed at different points in Colorado Territory and western Kansas, chief among these being Ft. Lyon and Ft. Larned, and at Denver, doing garrison duty and protecting the settlers against excursions of the Indians. Sections of the battery remained in that territory until the latter part of October, 1864, and were then assigned to General Blunt's Division/Army of the Border in eastern Kansas, participating in the action at Little Blue, MO, October 21, 1864. Thereafter the different sections of the battery were stationed at points in Kansas until the close of the war, and were finally mustered out of the service of the United States on September 30, 1865, and disbanded at Madison, WI, October 4, 1865

Another Veteran Mustered Out.

Frank Travis, an old resident of Lyons and a veteran of the Civil War, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. T. Spiegelhoff, Monday morning at 8 o'clock, aged 55 years, 10 months and 4 days. He was a native of Elba, Genesee county, N. Y., but came west with his parents when four years of age, and has lived at Lyons most of the time since.

He served during the last two years of the War in the 9th Wisconsin Battery. He was married in 1868 to Miss Olive M. Waite. For about seventeen years he has been an invalid and a great sufferer. He maintained great patience and cheerfulness through it all, and was ready for the end when it came.

He leaves four sons and one daughter, as follows: Vernon, of Ponoka, Alberta, N. W. T.; Milton and Mrs. T. Spiegelhoff of Lyons; Willett, of California, and Dwight, of Como. He also leaves two brothers, I. A. Travis of Elkhorn, and G. T. Travis of Lyons. The funeral was held at the house yesterday at ten o'clock.
