

*Louise McGannon*

*Louise's great-great grandfather is:*

**AUSTIN W. WHITEHEAD**  
*Iowa Company K 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry*

*My great-great grandfather was born in Licking County, Ohio on January 29, 1837 and sadly passed away on November 12, 1918, in Colfax, Iowa from a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 72.*

*At the age of 19 years old, Austin moves from Ohio to Iowa in 1856. There he meets the love of his life, Sarah Elizabeth Weston who was also born in Ohio and had moved to Iowa with her parents in 1855. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 18, 1908 with quite a write up in the Muscatine News-Tribune.*

*Newly married at 25 years of age with two baby daughters, one being my great grandmother, Clara Day, he enlists with Company K, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry on August 9, 1862. He is severely wounded at the battle of Winchester, Virginia, the third Winchester battle on September 19, 1864. The Confederates suffer dearly this time. It was the largest battle in the Shenandoah Valley with 54,400 total troops and 8,630 casualties, including over a quarter of the Confederate Army of the Valley. Due to being severely wounded at this battle, he musters out on January 5, 1864 in Davenport, Iowa.*

*After returning home, he and Elizabeth were blessed with another daughter and two boys. They lived on their farm for 37 years and then retired to a comfortable home in Colfax. He held various county and township offices, a standpat republican and members of the Christian church for 30 years.*

*Austin is the great grandson of Onesimus Whitehead who fought in the American Revolution and the grandson of Abner Whitehead who fought in the war of 1812. He and I are also the descendants of Timothy Meeker who also fought in the American Revolution along with 9 of his sons, and a grandson. It is said, maybe possible, that Timothy Meeker was the oldest patriot to sign up as a minuteman at the age of 70.*

