

Genealogy of Edward Guardene Bailey and Sarah Margaret Davis

Background Information

The following contains a genealogical history of Edward Guardene Bailey who was born in Potten, Province of Quebec, Lower Canada on May 10, 1835 and his wife, Sarah Margaret Davis who was born May 14, 1840 in Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan and their descendants.

Genealogical History

Company E of the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was being organized and enlistments of men from the Goodhue County area were being taken. So it was easy for Edward Guardene to become a member of the U.S. Army which he did on October 10, 1861. He was immediately assigned a rating of sargeant [sic]. J. Carroll Borah, grandson of Edward Guardene, has a book entitled "Memorial and Record of Central South Dakota" published in 1899 by George Ogle and Company of Chicago. The biography of Edward Guardene Bailey is included in this book. A statement made by Edward Guardene says that he felt he needed to uphold the record of the family as his father, Jonathan Butterfield Bailey, had fought in the War of 1812; his grandfather, Abijah Bailey, had fought in the American Revolutionary War; and his great grandfather, James Bailey, had served as a Brigadier General in the French and Indian War for the British Army and later served on the American side in the Revolutionary War.

For the first year of the war, Edward Guardene was involved in only a few minor skirmishes. The first major conflict that his company was involved in was at Murfreesboro (sometimes called Stones River). He was serving as a scout in this battle and was taken prisoner by the Confederates. Murfreesboro was fought on December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863. He was not a prisoner very long as he was soon traded and back in service. In June and July 1863 he was in Ohio visiting his sisters and brothers and recuperating from his experiences. After his summer in Ohio he headed south again where on December 19, 1863 he re-enlisted for another two years at Champion Hills, Mississippi again with Company E Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. In January 1864 he was in the Little Rock, Arkansas area where he was serving as a Secret Service Agent. Among his duties was that of escorting prisoners of war to prison and helping to locate guerilla bands. The remainder of his enlistment he spent in the Western war zone in the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas. He was mustered out of service on October 2, 1865.

During the war years Edward Guardene wrote many letter [sic] to his wife, Sarah. (He always called her "Chubby" in all of the letters.) A great many of these letters are among members of the family and if they could all be recorded in one spot would give a good account of what went on in the war. The letters contain many interesting sidelights of the war and much about the suffering and hardships the men endured. In one of his letters he says that a great majority of the men could not read or write; nor could their wives. Whether it was an obligation or whether he did it on his own accord, he wrote many

letters for his comrades to their wives. The wives in turn, had to have someone read the letters to them and then write for them to their husbands.

Edward Guardene had a younger brother, Ira Bailey, who enlisted in the army also during the Civil War. He enlisted at the age of 19 from Michigan and was critically injured by a bursting shell and died as a result of it on June 16, 1863. He is buried in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Va.

Soon after the war was over Edward Guardene returned to Minnesota and his family. For the next four years he farmed and did carpentry work. In 1869 the family moved to Pottawattamie County, Iowa where they settled on a farm some six miles north of Oakland, Iowa (it was Oak Grove at that time) and to the west and south a bit of Hancock, Iowa. The land location was in James Township on the West side of the Nashnabotna River and bordering Silver Creek. There were many oak trees in the area and on the Bailey farm.