

Elias Cospser Files

## ELIAS COPSER CIVIL WAR ERA AND REMEMBRANCES

8/9/1862 MUSTER ROLL 74th Illinois Volunteers

Muster Roll of the Nin[missing]

Enrolled under the call of the Pre[missing] at Rockford in the County [missing]

The members of said Company herein subs[missing] of the United States, and of this State; [and if is crossed out]

[column headings: NAMES. Rank. Town. [missing]

James R. Kerr. check mark Rockford

Elias Cospser. check mark. Rockford

[crossed out: illegible] Rockford

[rest of form is cut off

9/4-28/1862; 1865 Patriotism of Illinois volume 1-T M Eddy

### SEVENTY-FOURTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS.

The 74th regiment was organized at Camp Fuller, in Rockford, Illinois, September 4, 1862, where it remained until September 28th.

The following was the original roster:

Colonel, Jason Marsh; Lieutenant-Colonel, James B. Kerr; Major, Edward F. Dutcher; Adjutant, Edward A. Blodgett; Quartermaster, Lewis Williams; Surgeon, Charles N. Ellinwood; 1st Assistant Surgeon, Henry Strong; 2nd Assistant Surgeon, Chesseldon Fisher; Chaplain, [missing]

Co. A - Captain, Thomas J. L. Remington; 1st Lieutenant, Josiah W. Leffingwell; 2d Lieutenant Alfred Barker.

Co B - Captain, David O. Buttolph; 1st Lieutenant, Augustus W. Thompson; 2d Lieutenant, Edwin Swift.

Co C - Captain, Hampton P. Sloan; 1st Lieutenant, Christopher M. Brazee; 2d Lieutenant, Richard P. Blaisdell.

Co D - Captain, Jonathan H. Douglas; 1st Lieutenant, Hobert H. Hatch; 2d Lieutenant, John H. Nye.

Co E - Captain, Elias Cospser; 1st Lieutenant, William Powell; 2d Lieutenant, Alpheus M. Blakely.

11/14/1862; 1st ASSISTANT PROVOST-MARSHAL GENERAL, 1863 Annuals Army of the Cumberland p 287

ELIAS COSPER, Captain in the 74th Illinois Volunteers, and First Assistant Provost-Marshal General, is a native of Ohio, but resides in Rockford, Illinois. His age is thirty-nine. His business was that of a banker, which he surrendered at the call of duty, leaving a profitable position, an interesting family, and a delightful home. Failing health

was about to compel him to leave the service, when his many friends induced him to accept his present position, to which he was detailed November 14, 1862.

12/4/1862 PROMOTED TO MAJOR; Official Army Register 1865 p332

Promoted, (3)

Captain Elias Cospers, December 4, 1862, to Major and Additional Paymaster.

1863 Adjutant General Report p228 #127; also 1863 General Assembly Illinois p228

Roster of Seventy-Fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteers.

[column headings: Field and Staff. Rank. Remarks.]

Colonel. Jason Marsh. Sept. 4, '62.

Lieutenant Colonel. James B. Kerr. Sept. 4, '62.

Major. Edward F. Dutcher. Sept. 4, '62.

Adjutant. Edward A. Blodgett. Aug. 14, '62.

Quartermaster. Lewis Williams. Sept. 4, '62.

Surgeon. Charles N. Ellinwood. Sept. 28, '62.

1st Ass't Surgeon. Henry Strong. Sept. 28, '62.

2nd Ass't Surgeon. Chesseldon Fisher. Sept. 28, '62.

Chaplain. [nothing written]

#### COMPANY A

Captain. Thomas J. L. Remington. Sept. 4, '62.

First Lieutenant. Josiah W. Leffingwell. Sept. 4, '62.

Second Lieutenant. Alfred Barker. Sept. 4, '62.

#### B.

Captain. David O. Buttolph. Sept. 4, '62.

First Lieutenant. Augustus W. Thompson. Sept. 4, '62.

Second Lieutenant. Edwin Swift. Sept. 4, '62.

#### C.

Captain. Hampton P. Sloan. Sept. 4, '62.

First Lieutenant. Christopher M Brazee. Sept. 4, '62.

Second Lieutenant. Richard P Blaisdell. Sept. 4, '62. Resigned Sept. 4, 1862.

Second Lieutenant. John F. Squire. Sept. 4, '62.

#### D.

Captain. Jonathan H. Douglas. Sept. 4, '62.

First Lieutenant. Hobert H. Hatch. Sept. 4, '62.

Second Lieutenant. John H. Nye. Sept. 4, '62.

#### E.

Captain. Elias Cospers. Sept. 4, '62.

First Lieutenant. Elias Cospers. Sept. 4, '62. Promoted.

11/18/1863 PAYMASTER; 3/11/1864 Alton Telegraph p10

Military Appointments by the President from Illinois.

The following are among the recent appointments of President Lincoln, sent to the Senate for confirmation. All are from this State:

To be additional Paymasters in the Volunteer Service - Josiah Tilden, May 27, 1863: David T. Dickson, October 3, 1863; Elias Cospers, November 18, 1863.

Paymaster Duties,

The Paymaster

As to paying troops, there was a regulation act of July 5, 1838, which provided that whenever volunteers or regulars were called to service, the president was granted the authority to appoint paymasters at a rate of one paymaster to every two regiments. Said paymasters were to remain in service only so long as needed to pay the troops. Paymasters were under the command of a paymaster general with the rank of Colonel. Under him would be two deputy paymasters with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Under these would be deputies, totaling 25, with the rank of major. This then, was the paymaster department. The so-called deputies or additional paymasters were appointed to temporary duty only. According to all reports and diaries, the paymaster department was a mass of inefficiencies. There built up considerable pressure for a complete investigation of the inefficiencies in the pay department and to effect a general house cleaning. It was, however, not until March of 1863 that any semblance of qualification for additional or deputy paymasters was attempted. Until this point there was no examination for selection on any basis. Even after March of 1863, the selection routine was hardly adequate. At least there was some delineation as to mental and moral fitness; also, a physical examination was now required. These are admirable but minimum qualities and hardly seemed to cover the specific knowledge required to keep accounts and to fill out all the necessary forms. It is safe to assume the additional paymasters were indeed a sorry lot, probably mostly political appointees and those looking for a soft spot away from the action. In 1864 the war department regulations were up dated and amended to include examination of candidates for the paymaster department. Those who would apply now had to demonstrate the ability to write an intelligent business letter. At long last it was required to prove the ability to solve a mathematical problem accurately. All of this was necessary plus a [rest is missing].

11/18/1863; 1867 Adjutant General Report p206

ADDITIONAL PAYMASTERS Table

[column headings: Name. Rank. Date of appointment. Remarks.]

William S. Wallace. May 15, 1861.

Nicholas Vedder. Sept. 5, 1861.

William Larmod. Sept. 5, 1861.

Henry V. Sullivan. Sept. 5, 1861.  
Nathaniel G. Wilcox. Aug. 5, 1861.  
Daniel McCook. Mar. 24, 1862.  
Jesse W. Fell. June 30, 1862.  
George W. Burns. June 30, 1862.  
Augustus H. Bayden. Nov. 20, 1862.  
Edwin Bocebor. Nov. 26, 1862.  
Miles S. Honsy. Nov. 26, 1862.  
James C. Holbrook. Nov. 26, 1862.  
Charles Newcomer. Nov. 26, 1862.  
Richard H. Whitlug. Nov. 26, 1862.  
William E. Norris. Nov. 29, 1862.  
Anson Sperry. Feb. 19, 1863.  
Ferdinand Hinckley. Feb. 19, 1863.  
N. M. Knapp. Feb. 19, 1863.  
William H. McAllister. Feb. 19, 1863.  
Edmond Gifford. Feb. 19, 1863.  
J. H. Mayburn. Feb. 19, 1863.  
Charles H. Simpson. Mar. 11, 1863.  
Josiah Tilden. May 27, 1863.  
David T. Dixon. Oct. 3, 1863.  
Elias Cospers. Nov. 18, 1863.  
George W. Candee. Feb. 23, 1864.

11/18/1863; 1900 Adjutant General Report p182

#### ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

##### Schedule E - Continued.

[column headings: Name. Date of appointment. Remarks.  
William E. Norris. Nov. 29, 1862. Resigned March 9, 1865.  
Anson Sperry. Feb. 19, 1863. Mustered out Dec. 1, 1865.  
Ferdinand Hinckley. Feb. 19, 1863. Resigned Aug. 25, 1864.  
N. M. Knapp. Feb. 19, 1863. Mustered out Jan. 15, 1866.  
William H. McAllister. Feb. 19, 1863. Mustered out Jan. 15, 1866.  
Edmond Gifford. Feb. 19, 1863. Mustered out Nov. 15, 1865.  
J. H. Mayborn. Feb. 19, 1863. Mustered out Dec. 1, 1865.  
Charles H. Simpson. Mar. 11, 1863. Resigned Aug. 5, 1863.  
Josiah Tilden. May 27, 1863. Mustered out April 15, 1866.  
David T. Dixon. Oct. 3, 1863. "Mustered out April 15, 1866.  
Elias Cospers. Nov. 18, 1863. Resigned March 29, 1865.  
[rest of form is cut off]

11/18/1863; 1864 US Service Magazine Vol 1 p431

#### OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Edward J. Mallett, of New York, August 12, 1863.  
 Edward G. Fahnestock, of Pennsylvania, August 14, 1863.  
 John H. Dolman, of Ohio, August 14, 1863.  
 Owen T. Turney, of Ohio, August 14, 1863.  
 Chambers Baird, of Ohio, August 17, 1863.  
 John W. Wallace, of Pennsylvania, August 18, 1863.  
 Selden E. Marvin, of New York, August 27, 1863.  
 Nicholas St. John Green, of Massachusetts, August 31, 1863.  
 Charles R. Littlefield, of New York, September 1, 1863.  
 Ethan S. Reynolds, of Indiana, September 4, 1863.  
 Benjamin L. Martin, of Indiana, September 15, 1863.  
 Benjamin Gregory, of New Jersey, September 18, 1863.  
 George W. Hanck of Ohio, September 19, 1863.  
 William H. H. Allen, of New Hampshire, September 22, 1863.  
 David T Dickson, of Illinois, October 3, 1863.  
 Edward Walcott, of Massachusetts, October 7, 1863  
 Peter P. G. Hall, of Pennsylvania, November 6, 1863.  
 George Putnam, of California, November 17, 1863.  
 Elias Cosper, of Illinois, November 18, 1863.  
 Joseph Moore, Jr., of Pennsylvania, December 5, 1863.

11/18/1863; 1864 Official Army Register p86 #148; 1865 Official Army Register p76

PAY DEPARTMENT Table

[column headings: Name, rank, and date of commission. Born in. Appointed from.]

Additional Paymasters - Continued.

James R. Lofland. 19 Feb. 63. Del. Del.

Daniel M. Adams. 19 Feb. N. H. Kans.

Hiram S. Sleeper. 19 Feb. N. Y. Kans.

Joseph H. Mayborn. 19 Feb. Engl'd. [sic] Ill.

John B. Lockwood. 21 Feb. N.Y. N.Y.

John L. Wilson. 21 Feb. Ohio. Ind.

William J. Wood. 27 Feb. N. J. N. J.

N. P. Colburn. 27 Feb. N. H. Minn.

Robert G. Hunt. 27 Feb. N. J. N. J.

Henry W. Scovel. 27 Feb. N.Y. N.Y.

Edwin Fly. 27 Feb. Me. Me.

Justus M. Phelps. 27 Feb. N.Y. N.Y.

Cyrus C. Clark. 27 Feb. Me. Conn.

Charles L. Scholefield. 10 Mar. N. Y. N.Y.

Benjamin Malone. 10 Mar. Pa. Pa.

C. C. Ellsworth. 10 Mar. Vt. Mich.

Charles L. Bernay. 11 Mar. Germ. Mo.

John Brotherline. 11 Mar. Pa. Pa.

William Phelps. 11 Mar. N. Y. Mich.

W. P. Stone. 11 Mar. Ohio. Ohio.  
D. W. Dean. 11 Mar. Mo. Mo.  
Walter Crane. 11 Mar. N. Y. Mich.  
Isaac Sanford. 11 Mar. N. Y. N. Y.  
Shaler W. Eldridge. 11 Mar. Mass. Kans.  
Samuel W. Reynolds. 11 Mar. Pa. Pa.  
Harlan P. Wolcott. 13 Mar. Ohio. Ohio.  
Jesse Bowen. 14 Mar. Va. Iowa.  
Dudley W. Rhodes. 21 Apr. Ohio. Ohio.  
Wellington Vrooman. 22 Apr. N. Y. W VA.  
Champion S. Chase. 8 May. N. H. Wisc.  
George B. Congdon. 14 May. N. Y. Wisc.  
Josiah Tilde. 27 May. Vt. Ill.  
Additional Paymasters - Continued.  
Marshall Grover. 17 June, 63. Ind. Ind.  
Nathaniel C. Sawyer. 21 July. Mass. Vt.  
Henry C. Grout. 22 July. N. Y. Mich.  
Barnabus B. Hammond. 24 July. N. Y. R.I.  
George P. Lawrence. 24 July. Mass. Mass.  
John S. Herrick. 25 July. N. Y. Ohio.  
Josiah Miller. 28 July. S. C. Kans.  
William C. Lupton. 8 Aug. N. J. Ind.  
George Truesdale. 10 Aug. N. Y. N. Y.  
James S. Thurston. 11 Aug. N. Y. N. Y.  
Robert D. Clarke. 12 Aug. Pa. Pa.  
Edward. J. Mallett. 12 Aug. N. C. N. Y.  
Edward G. Fahnestock. 14 Aug. Pa. Pa.  
John H. Dolman. 14 Aug. N. Y. Ohio.  
Owen T. Turney. 14 Aug. Ohio. Ohio.  
Chambers Baird. 17 Aug. Ohio. Ohio.  
John W. Wallace. 18 Aug. Pa. Pa.  
Selden E. Marvin. 27 Aug. N. Y. N. Y.  
Nicholas St. J. Green. 31 Aug. N. H. Mass.  
Charles R. Littlefield. 1 Sept. Me. N. Y.  
Ethan S. Reynolds. 4 Sept. Ind. Ind.  
Benjamin L. Martin. 15 Sept. Pa. Ind.  
Benjamin Gregory. 18 Sept. N. J. N. J.  
George W. Hauk. 19 Sept. Ohio. Ohio.  
William H. H. Allen. 22 Sept. Vt. N. H.  
Charles J. Hoyt. 29 Sept. N. Y. N. Y.  
David T. Dickson. 3 Oct. N. Y. Ill.  
Edward Walcott. 7 Oct. Mass. Mass.  
Peter P. G. Hall. 6 Nov. Pa. Pa.  
George A. Putnam. 17 Nov. Mass. Cal.  
Elias Cosper. 18 Nov. Ohio. Ill.  
Joseph Moore, jr. 5 Dec. Pa. Pa.

11/26/1863; Register Gazette p17; reprinted 5/20/1934 Morning Star

List of Casualties in the 74th Regiment,  
IN THE LATE BATTLE AT CHATTANOOGA

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 26, 1863.  
E. C. Daugherty, Rockford -

Below is a List of casualties in the Seventy-fourth, yesterday. Nine missing or captured. Wounded comfortably provided for. E. COSPER, Capt. Co. E.

Co. A - U. Ellis, wounded in thigh, not severely; Jas. Gellespie, slightly in hand.

Co. B - G. L. Chapel, slightly in shoulder; B. Swift, slightly in leg.

Co. C - Lieut. H. P. Holland, in side, not dangerous, Serg't [sic] Alex Beatty, slightly in leg and foot; Serg't [sic] Rob't [sic] Simpson, slightly in leg; Jas. Elliott, severely in arm; Jos. H. Miller, slightly in hand and leg; Juo. [sic] W. Stewart, slightly in hand; Levi Robsbuler, slightly in shoulder; A. Milo, in arm, not dangerously.

Co. D - Lieut. Jno. [sic] Benison, slightly in breast; Searg. [sic] Jas. Crane, severely in foot; Searg. [sic] Henry W. Smith, slightly in left chest; Geo. Gustin, slightly in leg. Killed, Searg. [sic] Samuel Compton, H. F. Talbott.

Co. E - Serg't. [sic] Chase Allen, not dangerously wounded. Corporal Julius A. Smith, slightly wounded in arm. Corporal Edward Millard dangerously wounded in hip. Edward Prescott in left shoulder, W. C. Craig, severely in foot. Frank Derby slightly wounded in hand.

Co. F - Killed: Geo. Fisher; wounded, Corporal E. F. Coolidge, slightly in the hand; Charles Erickson, slightly in breast; Christ. Ballow, very severely in leg.

Co. G - Wounded: John McGoff, severely in side; Joshua Beisser, slightly over ey [sic]

Co. H - Wounded: Charles Hodgse, slightly in thigh; Wm. Walton, slightly; Edwin Miller, severely in groin; Geo. Payne, slightly in hand.

Co. I - Sergt. [sic] G. Van Valkenberg, slightly in hip; Sergt. [sic] Wm. Westman, slightly in hand; Corporal H. Bartlett, severely in leg; Col. Jason Marsh, in left shoulder, severely, but not dangerously; Col. Jas. B Kerr slightly in leg.

Signed, ELIAS COSPER.

11/28/1863 sent telegram about Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River) and the FLAG of the 74th 7/7/1933 Register-Republic p6; 1/29/1961 Morning Star C11, Elias sent a collect telegram

1863 1st income taxes; 2/28/1965 Morning Star 8B

But the federal government earlier had turned to income tax as a means of financing the vast expenses of the Civil War.

First levied in 1863, it was a 3 per cent tax on incomes up to \$10,000, and 5 per cent on all over that sum. There was even, which may have a familiar ring, an exemption of \$600. Elias Cosper, who had served with the 74th Illinois, reported an income of \$300.

1/18/1864 Executive Senate Journal p376

EXECUTIVE JOURNAL JAN. 18, 1864.

Elias Cosper, of Illinois, November 18, 1863

Joseph Moore, jr., of Pennsylvania, December 5, 1863

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,  
EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of War.

2/23/1864 Senate Executive Journal p414 #122; p415

EXECUTIVE JOURNAL. [FEB. 23, 1864

Selden E. Marvin, Nicholas St. John Green, Charles R. Littlefield, Ethan Reynolds, Benjamin L. Martin, Benjamin Gregory, George W. Hauck, William H. H. Allen, David T. Dickson, Edward Walcott, Peter P. G. Hall, George Putnam, Elias Cosper, Joseph Moore, jr., Edward Wright, John P. Brua, Rodney Smith, and the 10th inst [sic] those of [rest is missing]

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Walter Crane. 11 Mar. N. Y. Mich.  
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Jesse Bowen. 14 Mar. Va. Iowa.  
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Owen T. Turney. 14 Aug. Ohio. Ohio.  
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George A. Putnam. 17 Nov. Mass. Cal.  
Elias Cospers. 18 Nov. Ohio. Ill.  
Joseph Moore, jr. 5 Dec. Pa. Pa.

1864 Official Army Register p86 #148

11/8/1864 73rd Illinois Infantry Regiment p.88

Tuesday, November 8, 1864, the rain came down in regular Presidential-election-day style. The regiment was paid up to and including August 31, 1864, by Major Elias Cospers. After being paid we worked [rest is missing]

3/22/1882 Gazette

Our Military Authorities.

The GAZETTE is very proud of its military authorities. Rockford may well be proud of them too. There probably is not in any other community of equal size an equal number of men of character and prominence who can throw strong and clear light on the dark places in the history of the Army of the Cumberland, as the GAZETTE has discovered during the past few days.

Read the list: Col. CHRISTOPHER M. BRAZEE, Col. JOHN W. TAYLOR, Major ELIAS COSPER, Captain THOMAS G. LAWLER, Capt. JOHN H. SHERRATT, and Maj. T. L. J. REMINGTON. We have not had the pleasure of interviewing all of these gentlemen, but we have found profit in making ourselves acquainted with the views of each one, either by personal application or by hearsay. We congratulate them, one and all, on their valuable recollections of important historical events in which they took distinguished parts. May they live long and never have to lament that an injustice has been done to a single brave and honorable soldier of the war of the rebellion.

11/4/1885; p58 1st Reunion Society of the 74th Vice President of Company E

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Amasa Hutchins. Company A

E. D. Pettibone. Company B

Robert Simpson. Company C

J. H. Nye. Company D

Elias Cospers. Company E

1896 Army of the Cumberland 26th Reunion p2 #109; Elias on reception committee

Reception.  
GENERAL S. D. ATKINS, Chairman.  
MAYOR E. W. BROWN, MAJOR ELIAS COSPER

9/4/1897; 1903 Society of the 74th p219

Proceedings Eleventh Reunion  
September 4, 1897, Oregon, Illinois

**BUSINESS MEETING.**

Survivors of the regiment met in eleventh reunion, at Oregon, Ill, September 4th, 1897. A business meeting was held in the afternoon, at which the following officers were elected:

JOHN H. SHERRATT, President.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS.**

James S. Cowen Company A

A. W. Thompson Company B

H. P. Holland Company C

Thos. W. Cole Company D

Elias Cospers Company E

1896 Easel Monument Company, Chicago.

Know ye, that John Schoonmaker, Vet, enlisted in the United States Service at Rockford, Winnebago, Co., Ills. Aug 10, 1862 as a private of Company E, 74th Reg't Illinois Infantry Vol's, under Capt. Elias Cospers and Col. Jason Marsh, to serve 3 years, or during the war. The Reg't was assigned to Brig. 2, Div., 4, Corps, Army of the Cumberland. - Said John Schoonmaker participated in the following engagements: Perryville, Ky, Oct 8, '62; Nashville, Tenn., Dec 26, '64. He [rest is missing]

**GRAND ARMY NOTICE.**

G. L. Nevins Post is called to meet at headquarters at 2:30 on Sunday for the purpose of attending the funeral of Comrade Elias Cospers, late major U.S.A.

10/13/00 Rfd [sic] Republic

**ATTENTION COMRADES.**

Headquarters G. L. Nevins Post No. 1.

Department of Illinois. G. A. R.

Rockford. Ill., Oct. 13, 1900.

A special assembly of this post is hereby called to meet at these headquarters at 2:30 sharp, on Sunday, the 14th inst. for the purpose of attending the funeral of our comrade, Elias Cospers, late major U.S.A.

THOMAS G. LAWLER. Post Commander.

E. P. THOMAS. Adjutant.

10/14/1900 Morning Star p5

[beginning is missing] at Normal. Resolutions [sic] on the death of Elias Cospers were read by the committee.

12/3/1900 G. A. R. Meeting; 12/4/00 Morning Star p3

12/31/1900 Rfd [sic] Republic listed among those that died this year

5/31/1901 Daily Republic; name read as one who died since last Memorial Day

5/29/1903 Daily Register Gazette; listed as buried in West Side Cemetery

1/16/1904 Republic p6; listed as CAPTAIN and 1st LT.

Company E: Captains, James R. Kerr, Roscoe; Elias Cospers, Rockford; Alpheus W. Blakesly, Rockford; First Lieutenants, Elias Cospers. Rock- [rest is missing]

PAID OUT MILLIONS, NEVER LOST A CENT Article

Entered military service with Co. E, 74th regiment. After the battle of Chickamauga he was promoted to the rank of paymaster in the army. He handled immense sums of money and his accounts never showed the discrepancy of a penny. A. A. H. Perkins, now nearing the century mark in Chicago is the the last survivor of his bondsmen as paymaster. Major Cospers died in 1900.

[image: photo of Elias Cospers with the caption, MAJOR ELIAS COSPERS.]

#123 VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL: 74th ILLINOIS, COMPANY E

[image: photo of the 74th Illinois Memorial Plaque with names listed]