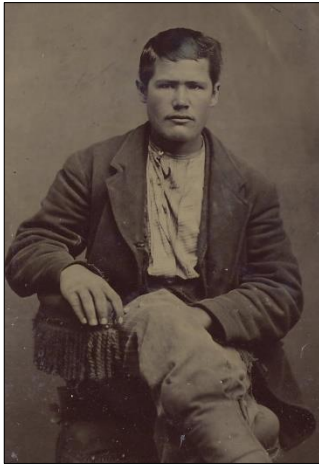


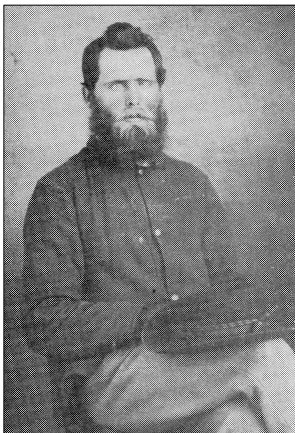
Bailey J. Wilcox: Blacksmith, Civil War Veteran, and Farmer

By Marian Ruhland Burmester



Bailey was born in Ohio to Thomas and Hannah Gates Wilcox on October 23, 1838. According to the 1850 US Census, when Bailey was 12 years old, the family lived in Taylor Creek, Hardin County, Ohio, at dwelling #533. Household members were Thomas, age 50 a farmer; Hannah, age 64; Melinda, age 17; Thomas, age 16; William, age 14; and Bailey, age 12. Ancestry tree by "VirginiaWise55" lists the following children for Thomas and Hannah: Matilda Ann (1823-1892), Henry N. (1825-____), Edward B. (1833-1863), Malinda (1833-1882), Thomas J. (1834-1903), Bailey J. (1838-1912). (*Left is Bailey Wilcox; photo courtesy of OFTHS*)

Bailey's sister, Matilda, was born 1823 in Ohio and died in 1892 in Franklin Township, Sauk County, Wisconsin. Her family roots were in Massachusetts with ancestors that were in the Revolutionary War. Matilda married Lemuel Cooper (1815-1884) in 1839. In the 1850 US Census for Taylor Creek, Hardin County, Ohio, the family of Lemuel and Matilda Cooper were living at dwelling #535¹ and her parents Thomas and Hannah Wilcox were living in dwelling #533. Brother Henry N. Wilcox with wife Elizabeth and four children lived at dwelling # 534. Lemuel and Matilda lived in Hardin County, Ohio, for eleven years before moving to a 40-acre farm on the outskirts of Sauk City.² Eventually, in 1858, Lemuel and Matilda Cooper settled on government farmland in Franklin Township on two 40-acre parcels.³ Thomas Wilcox (1834-1903), another brother of Bailey's, enlisted in the Civil War for Company K in the Wisconsin 23rd Infantry Regiment on August 12, 1862. He mustered out on July 4, 1865, at Mobile, Alabama. Donald Kindschi author of *Lemuel & Matilda Cooper Family History, 1815-1988*; suggested that Bailey and Thomas followed their sister, Matilda, and her family to Franklin Township. More about Thomas follows on page 5.



Bailey, as a young 22-year-old, was still living in Ohio when he enlisted as a Private in Captain J. S. Robinson's Company G, Ohio 4th Infantry Regiment on June 4, 1861, at Camp Dennison, where he served 3 years. Pension documents described Bailey as being 5 feet 7 ¾ inches tall, having a light complexion, grey eyes, and brown hair. When he enlisted, his occupation was blacksmith. Another document described Bailey as 5 feet 7½ inches with blue eyes.

This photo of Bailey dressed in a Civil War uniform was taken from Donald Kindschi's book. Kindschi mentions that this was one of three photos he received from Evelyn Magli Jones. Written on the back was "Bailey Wilcox, brother of Matilda Wilcox Cooper."

¹ https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4204481_00513?pId=

² Lemuel & Matilda Cooper, Family History, 1815-1988 by Donald Kindschi, pages 4 & 62.

³ Bureau of Land Management documents: June 1, 1858; STA_Patent_WI2450_.201 (40 acres). STA_Patent_WI2450 .221 (40 acres). In later years, Alois Brickl purchased the farm in Franklin Township. Eventually his son, Anthony, took over the farm. Greg and Tammy Alt are recent owners of this farm.

After a few days of training and drilling, Bailey's regiment under Colonel Lorin Andrews, moved to Grafton, Virginia (now West Virginia), on June 20th, 1861, where it was attached to Alexander M. McCook's Advance Brigade, West Virginia, until July. As part of the 3rd Brigade, Army of Occupation, the regiment saw action in the West Virginia Campaign, capturing the Confederate-held town of Beverly on July 12. On July 23, 1861, they moved to New Creek.

On the night of August 6, 1861, Bailey was guarding a railroad near New Creek, Virginia, when a bushwhacker shot Bailey through the right wrist. The B & O railroad sat on a ridge at the northern end of a narrow valley between two mountains at the intersection of New Creek Valley and the Potomac River Valley. It served as a critical supply depot with significant reason for the Union troops to guard.

After his wound, Bailey was taken to New Creek then to Oakland, Maryland, then back to the regimental hospital at Fort Pendleton. After being examined by a surgeon, it was determined the disability was complete. Bailey was honorably discharged on May 3, 1862, from Company G, Ohio 4th Infantry Regiment.⁴

An interesting note is that the Ohio 4th Infantry Regiment remained on duty in western Virginia through the balance of the year, fighting in several small skirmishes and battles. It was most noted for its actions in helping secure Cemetery Hill during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Whether it was for a sense of duty to his country, need of income, or the Union army in need of men, Bailey re-enlisted at Taylor Creek, Ohio, for three years on July 21, 1862, as a Private in Company B, 45th Ohio Infantry Regiment. The regiment was organized at Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio, on August 19, 1862, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Piatt Runkle. The regiment was attached to 3rd Division, Army of Kentucky, Department of the Ohio, for the months of September and October 1862.

The 45th Ohio Regiment⁵ took part in the dramatic pursuit of Morgan's Raiders as they rode raising havoc through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, for three weeks in July of 1863, making the farthest northern penetration of any Confederate troops. They conducted the longest raid of the war, nearly 1,000 miles from start to finish. On July 19, 1863, the 45th was present at the Battle of Buffington Island - the only Civil War battle fought on Ohio soil. Federal forces captured nearly 700 of John Hunt Morgan's 2,000 men, killing 57 and wounding 63. The remaining raiders either crossed the Ohio River into West Virginia or escaped with their leader. Morgan continued his raid through Ohio until July 26, when he and his remaining troops surrendered. The 45th, whose men had fought Morgan's forces in one of the first engagements of the raid, sent detachments on this final pursuit as well.

⁴ Pension File #70020009 & 70020013

⁵ Information on 45th Ohio Regiment: <https://ohio45.homestead.com>

After fighting in the siege of Knoxville in November and December 1863, the 45th took part in many engagements of Sherman's Atlanta campaign, including the battles of Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, and Jonesboro. As part of the 4th Army Corps, it joined the pursuit of Hood's army through Tennessee in the waning days of 1864 and engaged the enemy in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. Bailey was honorably discharged along with the entire regiment being mustered out on June 12, 1865 at Camp Harker, Tennessee.

Sometime after Bailey's military discharge, he followed his sister and husband, Matilda Wilcox and Lemuel Cooper, to Franklin Township in Sauk County, Wisconsin, where he was appointed postmaster in Plain on January 24, 1867. After the appointment of Bella V. Bunnell as postmaster on March 12, 1867, Bailey went back to Hardin County, Ohio, to marry Lucy A. Pickering on May 7, 1867.⁶ Together they traveled back to Franklin Township where he was again appointed postmaster on August 29, 1867⁷ until the appointment of Palmer W. Perry on December 21, 1870. (*Photo of Bailey and Lucy*⁸)



On March 26, 1868, Bailey and Lucy Wilcox purchased a parcel of land for the sum of thirty dollars from Solomon and Mary Ann Cramer.⁹ There he built a log house and blacksmith shop located on Cedar Street in Plain, Wisconsin. Hildegard Thering notes in her book, "It was generally agreed that the village of Plain was started by 1882. Perry's store, B. J. Wilcox blacksmith shop, the Stutz saloon, and three houses made up the inland village. . . . The first house in Plain is Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo Maish. The next oldest house may have been that of Bailey Wilcox, the blacksmith, on Cedar Street. This home was destroyed by fire in 1889. It was rebuilt by John Aron in 1891 and became the home of Post Heiser in 1935."¹⁰ The 1870 US Census is the first listing of the Bailey Wilcox family living in Franklin Township. Bailey's occupation was blacksmith. They had a daughter, Mary, while still living in Plain. Bailey J. Wilcox and his wife, Lucy, sold the improved lot to John B. Nachreiner for five hundred dollars on September 28, 1874.¹¹ The Bailey Wilcox family departed from Plain driving a span of mules and headed for Ohio where they would make their home.

Bailey received a pension for the gunshot wound through the right wrist which occurred on the night of August 6, 1861, while serving only a couple of months with Company G, Ohio 4th Infantry Regiment. During his service in the 45th Ohio Infantry Regiment, he had been sick a few times but not to the extent to add to his pension. The following notations in his pension file while serving with the 45th Ohio: May & June 1864 present for duty, July & Aug. sick in Kingston GA., Nov. & Dec. present for duty, Aug. 31, 1864 absent sick at Kingston, GA & Oct. 31, 1864 same. Sept. 13 to 26 pneumonias; Aug. 26 to Sept. 4, 1864, sick; Oct. to 13, 1864 convalescent.¹²

⁶ Marriage record, State of Ohio, Hardin County, page 1: <https://tinyurl.com/2uf93y6f> and Pension File # 70020014

⁷ Postal appointment book: <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1932&h=1320742>

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16516752/baley-j-wilcox> Photo uploaded by KerrCoTX

⁹ Grantee Vol. 17 page 231: Sauk County Register of Deeds, Baraboo, WI

¹⁰ A History of Plain Wisconsin by Hildegard Thering, pages 58, 60 & 216

¹¹ Grantor Vol. page 153: Sauk County Register of Deeds, Baraboo, WI

¹² Pension File # 70020037

As the time passed, the injury of August 6, 1861, seem to worsen, causing a stiff joint and preventing the fingers from being opened, with complete ankyloses¹³ motivating Bailey to apply for an increase in pension several times. In the pension file there are many testimonies from



comrades to prove how the injury happened and surgeon's reports on the condition and extent of the injury. A summary of the surgeon's report of February 5, 1890, describes Bailey's injury with increasing damage to the hand; "The ball passed through the wrist joint í deformity of wrist and hand complete ankyloses of the wrist joint and contraction of all flex on tendons of hand and fingers, little and middle fingers. Then there is some motion in thumb, index, and middle fingers, with slight flexion and extensions, but incomplete. The index and middle fingers are gradually being drawn to side and override little and ring fingers. Disability permanent and contraction of fingers increasing." (Photo at left of Bailey)¹⁴

The 1880 US Census shows the Bailey Wilcox family living in Lynn, Hardin County, Ohio. Bailey's occupation was farmer. They now had two daughters: Mary, age 11, and Rosetta, age 9. (Photo at right of Bailey and Lucy)¹⁵



By the 1890 US Census, the Bailey Wilcox family were living in Jones Township, Union County, Iowa. Bailey's occupation was still listed as a farmer, and he could write and speak English. They were mortgage free and owned the farm. One daughter, Eliza E, age 23, was living with them.



In the 1910 US Census, Bailey, age 71 and his wife Lucy A., age 61, were living by themselves in Afton, Union Township, Union County, Iowa, where they owned a house at East Filmore Street. Here again, Bailey was listed as being able to write and speak English, he was a Survivor of Union Army, and a retired farmer. Bailey Wilcox died on October 23, 1838, and was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Afton, Union County, Iowa.¹⁶ In the 1913 city directory of Union County, Iowa, Lucy A. Wilcox was listed as the widow of Bailey and resided at East Filmore Ave.¹⁷ After Bailey's death, Lucy

¹³ Ankyloses definition: Stiffness of a joint as the result of injury or disease. The rigidity may be complete or partial and may be due to inflammation of the tendinous or muscular structures outside the joint or of the tissues of the joint itself.

¹⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16516752/baley-j-wilcox> Photo uploaded by KerrCoTX

¹⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16516752/baley-j-wilcox> Photo uploaded by relative Tim Cooper

¹⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/16516752/baley-j-wilcox> Photo added by "46620252" on 12 Nov 2006

¹⁷ <https://tinyurl.com/5de2ud34>

applied for a widow's pension, which she received. Lucy died at age 84 on August 25, 1933.¹⁸

Thomas J. Wilcox
By Marian Ruhland Burmester

Thomas J. Wilcox, brother of Bailey, enlisted in Company K, Wisconsin 23rd Infantry Regiment on August 12, 1862. He was born in July 1834 in Ohio and died in Franklin Township on November 23, 1903.¹⁹ To read more about the parents and siblings of Thomas, see page 1 of this newsletter. Not much is really known about Thomas Wilcox, his wife, and family. Most of the material for this story is taken from documents in the Pension File at the OFTHS, US Census records, and Donald Kindschi's book, *Lemuel & Matilda Cooper Family History, 1815-1988*.

The 23rd Wisconsin Infantry was organized at Camp Randall in Madison and mustered into service on August 30, 1862. The regiment left Wisconsin for Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 15, 1862. From there it traveled through Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama. The 23rd Wisconsin Infantry participated in the battles of Port Gibson and Champion Hill, the Siege of Vicksburg, the Red River Campaign, the Western Louisiana Campaign, and the sieges of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in Alabama. The regiment concluded the war by occupying Mobile, Alabama, where it mustered out of service on July 4, 1865. The regiment lost 308 men during service. Of those, one officer and 40 enlisted men were killed or mortally wounded, while five officers and 262 enlisted men died of disease.²⁰

Thomas Wilcox and Georgiana Hall (born 1850 in Maine²¹) were married on March 4, 1866, by Sauk County Justice of the Peace, F. J. Morgans. Solomon Cramer of the Town of Franklin and Pearson Young of the Town of Troy were the attending witnesses. Since Georgiana was under the age of eighteen, Franklin Township and Solomon Cramer gave consent to the marriage.²² Interestingly, in the 1860 US Census, Thomas (age 26) and Georgiana (age 10) were next-door neighbors, each living with Cramer families - brothers Jeremiah and Solomon Cramer.²³ The pension file mentions that Solomon was given guardianship of Georgiana prior to the marriage and may be the reason why she was living with his family in the 1860 census.²⁴

¹⁸ <https://tinyurl.com/5c79urs3> Death Certificate, Afton, Union County, State of Iowa

¹⁹ Sauk County Register of Deeds, Baraboo, WI: Death Certificate Vol. 3 p. 340. Cemetery Inscriptions, Volume 6, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, page 38

²⁰ <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2332>

²¹ 1900 US Census, Bear Creek Town, Sauk County, Wisconsin, Sheet 3A.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120641_00161?pld=

²² Pension File page # 70000038

²³ 1860 US Census Franklin Township, Sauk, Wisconsin.

Dwelling #1141, Household Members: Solomon Cramer age 38 and a farmer; Mary Cramer, age 26; Solomon, age 2; Mary L. Cramer, age 11/12; Georgiana Hall, age 10, born in Maine; John Hutter, age 24 and a farm laborer; George Hutter, age 21.

Dwelling # 1142, Household Members: Jeremiah Cramer, age 46 and a farmer; Esther Cramer, age 36; Mary Ann Cramer, age 15; Clarissa E. Cramer, age 13; Catherine J. Cramer, age 10; Harriet N. Cramer, age 6; Abigail Cramer, age 4; Thomas Wilcox, age 26, born in Ohio, a farm laborer.

²⁴ Pension File page # 70000062

Thomas received a pension for injuries incurred at Milliken's Bend around March or April of 1863. Apparently, he overexerted himself when lifting hay off a barge to the shore causing a rupture. About the same time Thomas was sick with chronic diarrhea along with many in the regiment, several of those who died of this disease. Although Thomas was seriously sick, he did recover somewhat. Later, he was treated at Milliken's Bend and Keokuk, Iowa. Milliken's Bend was a small community in Louisiana located on the west bank of the Mississippi River about 15 miles north of Vicksburg. After his passing, Georgiana received a widow's pension.²⁵

Medical Affidavit, August 1, 1903, summary by Dr. Marcus Bossard, doctor at Spring Green, Wisconsin, from 1887 to 1947: "I did not know the soldier prior to enlistment. I saw him first in May 1888. He suffered from chronic diarrhea. On my judgement he has been incapable for any manual labor two thirds of the time. He is financially destitute having received aid from different sources. He also has enlargement of the heart with valvular trouble, causing swelling of the feet and great difficulty breathing." Other documents mention Thomas had very weak eyes and was almost blind in the left eye.

Summary of the widow's pension Claimants Affidavit, January 22, 1904, for Georgiana, widow age 53: "The soldier, her husband was the owner of thirty acres of land worth one hundred sixteen dollars located in the Town of Bear Creek, Sauk Co., Wis., that yearly expenses for taxes, repairs, etc. are about thirteen dollars, That she has one child Cora Wilcox, aged eleven years; that expenses for her exclusive of board is twenty five dollars a year, that she has no source of income whatever except what the land produces and from that the family can scarcely make a living. Above land is not encumbered by mortgage, but the deed is in the hands of the farm owner until the balance of the purchase price, twenty-six dollars shall have been paid."²⁷

Tom Wilcox had about 10 children, 7 of whom reached adulthood. His children Ed, Joe, Henry, Bailey J., and Lucy did not marry, and had no children. Lucy died young. Only Alex and Cora had children. Some Wilcox people are buried in Potter's Field (for indigents) in Reedsburg Cemetery. Alex Wilcox married in Dakota, had at least 2 boys and a girl named Mable. Cora Wilcox married Amos Shaw in Reedsburg in 1911. Shaw was a rural mail carrier at Loganville. After 4 years, Cora separated from her husband, and some years later went to live at Sauk County Farm (now Health Care Center) where she died in her 40's. Cora had 2 sons. One son, Lester Thomas Shaw, lived in northern Illinois, had 6 or 7 children, and was killed in a car accident. Nothing is known of the other son.²⁸



Thomas J Wilcox died in Franklin Township on November 23, 1903, and was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Plain, Wisconsin. (Photo by Marian Burmester in 2019) Georgiana was judged

²⁵ Pension File page # 70000025

²⁶ Pension File page # 70000082

²⁷ Pension File page # 70000148

²⁸ Lemuel & Matilda Cooper, Family History, 1815-1988 by Donald Kindschi, page 63

by the county court to be incompetent to handle the widow pension by herself. On April 21, 1925, John Riggert of the Loganville State Bank was appointed guardian. After Georgiana passed away, John sent a letter to the Veterans Administration stating that she had died on January 27, 1934.²⁹ I have not been able to find where Georgiana is buried.

Published in the August 2021 ó Volume 14, Issue 2

The OFTHS and/or author copyright © permission must be obtained from them prior to any further use.

²⁹ Pension File # 70000077 & # 70000114