

17. Samuel Painter—Sons in the Civil War

Samuel and Katy Frank Painter came to Petersburg, Indiana from Preble County Ohio in the early 1850's and opened a mill. They had five sons: Henry, John, Jeremiah, David, and William. They also had a daughter, Louisa. Katy had a daughter, Susan Givens/Gibbons, from her first marriage.

When the Civil War broke out Indiana was one of the states that signed up volunteers to fight for the Union. At least three of the Painter boys volunteered. The records of their service are in the National Archives.

The older boys, John and Jeremiah signed up in 1861.

Jeremiah joined as a private in Co. I of Captain McIntyre's 42d Indiana Reg. He was 22 years old and described as 5 foot 8 inches tall, with sandy hair and complexion and blue eyes. He was assigned to be the company teamster.

John joined Co. G of the 14th Indiana Infantry at age 23. No muster-in description found.

In June 1862 at age 18 David enrolled in the 54th Indiana Infantry. He was tall for his time, standing six feet tall. He had blue eyes and auburn hair and was strong and feisty. He was assigned to Captain Ball's unit but after three months he transferred to Alonzo D. Harvey's volunteers as a private in the Fifteenth Indiana Battery of Light Artillery. His unit was transported by train through Pennsylvania and Virginia to Harpers Ferry.

P 42 Ind.	
Jeremiah Painter	
, Co. I, 42d Reg't Indiana Infantry.	
Appears on	
Company Descriptive Book	
of the organization named above.	
DESCRIPTION.	
Age	22 years; height 5 feet 8 inches.
Complexion	sandy
Eyes	blue; hair sandy
Where born	Preble Co. Ohio
Occupation	Teamster
ENLISTMENT.	
When	Oct 20, 1861
Where	Preble, Ind.
By whom	W. B. McIntyre; term was 1 yr.
Remarks:	Company teamster was taken prisoner Oct 2 1862 in regular battle with the Union Reenlisted Jan 1/64

P	15	Battery.	Ind.
David F. Painter			
, 15 Batt'y, Indiana Light Art'y.			
Appears on			
Battery Descriptive Book			
of the organization named above.			
DESCRIPTION.			
Age	20	years;	height 6 feet _____ inches.
Complexion	Fair		
Eyes	blue	;	hair Auburn
Where born	Preble Co. Ohio		
Occupation	Farmer		
ENLISTMENT.			
When	June 6.	;	1862
Where	Terre Haute		
By whom	J. C. Von Schlenk; term 3 y'rs.		
Remarks:			

About that time, Stonewall Jackson had led his troops down the Shenandoah Valley gaining victory after victory for the Confederates. General Robert E. Lee had won the second battle of Bull Run on August 30. The Indiana Volunteers arrived from the West and were garrisoned at the federal fort where the Potomac meets the Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry. General Lee dispatched Jackson to take the fort.

Lee had decided to invade the north and crossed the Potomac, September 4, 1862 intending to push on to Pennsylvania. Harpers Ferry was the first tactical objective of an elaborate plan. There were blunders on both sides. The Union General McClellan met Lee and two battles raged until late on September 13 when part of Lee's forces retreated back to Virginia.

On September 14, 1862 Stonewall Jackson advanced on Harper's Ferry. He defeated the artillery deployed at Maryland Heights and Loudon Heights protecting the fort. The fort, left unprotected, surrendered unconditionally without Jackson attacking. The Eighth New York Cavalry and Captain Harvey's Fifteenth Indiana Battery, **David Painter** among them, were taken prisoner, September 15.

Two days later on September 17 McClelland and Lee met five miles north at Antietam in the bloodiest day of the war. Lee lost 11,000 men out of 55,000. McClellan lost 12,400 out of 97,000. Lee was pushed back across the Potomac to a high bluff overlooking Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Two months later **David Painter** was released from prison on November 16, 1862. He returned to Indianapolis to be treated for “mumps affecting the privates, catarrh and rheumatism affecting the heart.”

Next on New Years Eve 1862, **David Painter's** Fifteenth Indiana Battery was deployed along with four other batteries and twenty-six regiments to the front at Stone River. This army of inexperienced volunteers fought for three days with terrible losses. In David's battery 38 men were killed, seven were missing and 143 wounded.

One young private wrote home:

“Our regiments are all very small since the battle...many were wounded, and many are sick....Only half of the men who leave home are fit for service. The officers resign and go home and the privates die. A regiment of five hundred men, well drilled, which has had all the poor men sifted out by service, is worth two new regiments of a thousand men each.”

P	14	Ind.
John Painter		
Co. G, 14 Reg't Indiana Infantry.		
Appears on Returns as follows:		
July to Sept. 1863 - Absent sick. Wounded		
July 3/63 Gettysburg & sent to Ambrose		
Oct. 1863 - Dismissed Oct. 1/63 Washington D.C.		
In Co. G		
Mich. 1864 - Transf'd from Div. Confed. Army 20/64		
Newark, N.J. by order Gen. Dept.		
Absent sick in Ambrose since July 2/63		
Apr. 1864 - Dismissed Apr. 20/64 & Stevenson		
by order Col. Coons		

Lee was doing well against the Union that winter. In May he was again victorious at Chancellorsville. It was his last great Confederate victory. (Meanwhile Stonewall Jackson had been accidentally shot and killed by his own men.)

Energized by Lee's victory Jeb Stuart's raiders attempted to invade the north again. He took his troops to Gettysburg using a circuitous route through Carlisle, Pennsylvania. His troops were exhausted when they reached the battle site.

Lee's troops were defeated in three days, but the cost to both sides was immense. Among the Union troops was Company G of the 14th Indiana—John

Painter's unit. When the Battle of Gettysburg ended July 3, 1863, John lay wounded on the field. He was removed and transported to a hospital in Washington.

Jeremiah was captured Oct 2, 1863 at Searachee Valley. In the Fall of 1863 on the western front, the Union General Bragg concentrated 40,000 troops on Chickamauga Creek, a forested region ten or so miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. After two days of head on assault the Union forces were defeated on September 20. Indiana had sent 28 regiments of infantry including **Jeremiah Painter's** 84th and **David Painter's** 15th. Battlefield casualties soared to over 30,000. Among the three thousand Indiana casualties was **David Painter** who was stabbed by one of his fellow volunteers and sent to the hospital at Lexington and released later to Weickman Bridge, Kentucky to recuperate.

P	42	Ind.
Jeremiah Painter		
Wag., Co. I, 42 Reg't Indiana Infantry.		
Appears on		
Company Muster Roll		
for	Sept & Oct	1863
Present or absent	absent	
Stoppage, \$	100	for
Due Gov't, \$	100	for
Remarks:		
Was transferred taken prisoner in Searachee Valley Oct 2 - 1863, taken with the train.		
Book mark:		

D	15 Battery.	Ind.
David Painter		
Pro, 15 Battery Indiana Light Artillery.		
Appears on Returns as follows:		
June & July, 1863: Absent sick in Hosp. at Lexington, Ky. since June 26/63.		
Dec. 1863 & Jan. 1864: Absent without leave at Kingston, Tenn. in jail.		

David rejoined his company at Crab Orchard on December 20. The company was moving with the campaign of Rosecrans from Chattanooga to Georgia. David was barely back with his company when he went AWOL again—this time in jail in Kingston, Tennessee. He got out of jail sometime in January just in time to join his company as it started a long hard ride—a ride that may have made David wish he had stayed in jail. By February 1 David had suffered from severe intestinal and

rectal problems and required medical treatment.

In February 1864 General Sherman began his infamous march starting at Vicksburg, Mississippi. **Jeremiah Painter** was Wagon Master of the Supply Train from May to July 1864.

John Painter, still listed as an invalid in the hospital in Washington was transferred to a Newark, New Jersey hospital. A month later, according to his record, he deserted.

David having marched with Sherman was treated for disease of the rectum and hemorrhoids after the fall of Atlanta. The war left David with a lifetime disability. He was

P	42	Ind.
Jeremiah Painter		
Pvt., Co. D., 42 Reg't Indiana Infantry.		
Appears on Returns as follows:		
May & June 1862 - Co. Teamster		
July 1862 - absent - sent to nurse		
freestone, with Gen. Woods' train		
Aug. 1862 - Co. Teamster		
Nov. 1862 - Co. Teamster		
Jan. to Sept. 1863 - Co. Teamster		
Oct. 1863 - absent - in hands of		
enemy.		
Nov. & Dec. 1863 - Teamster		
Apr. 1864 - on extra or daily duty		
May to July 1864 - absent - wagon		
master supply train, 1 Div.		
14 a.c. May 1/64		
Sept. 1864 to June 1865 - absent in		
Div. train, Sept. 20/64		

P	14	Ind
John Painter		
Pvt., Co. G, 14 Reg't Ind. Inf		
Age 23 years.		
Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated		
Indianapolis Ind., June 20, 1864.		
Muster-out to date _____, 186		
Last paid to _____, 186		
Clothing account:		
Last settled _____, 186 ; drawn since \$ _____ 100		
Due soldier \$ _____ 100; due U. S. \$ _____ 100		
Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ _____ 100		
Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ _____ 100		
Bounty paid \$ _____ 100; due \$ _____ 100		
Remarks: Deserted from Genl Hoop.		
Newark, N. J. Mch 9 64		

honorably discharged at Indianapolis at age 22 on June 30, 1865. He later received a pension for his service. He married Cynthia Morton 6 Dec 1866 in Petersburg. He lived until 1923 and left children and grandchildren.

Jeremiah survived the war and married Austina Klutz in 1870 in Petersburg. He lived until 1925 and left children and grandchildren. John may have survived the war and returned home to Petersburg at war's end—or he may have died in the war. He was buried near his parents with the simple inscription, 'John Painter, Company G, Indiana 14th Infantry'. Other records imply he might have married later in Petersburg—but it is an open question.

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