

My Civil War “Kenne-ctions.”



My name says it all, Burton Ross Kennedy. I am the great-grandchild of two Civil War soldiers, John August Ross and John L. Kennedy. John Ross, born in Coburgh, Saxony, then living in Allegheny City, enlisted in the 90 day 5th Pennsylvania Reserves in March of 1861. They trained, but did not see action. Upon discharge he joined the Pittsburgh Rifles, Company A, of the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves. During the Peninsular Campaign in 1862 he was badly wounded in the leg at the battle of Gaines Mills. After nine months of rehab in several DC hospitals he was given a medical discharge. Despite the wound, he married and had a large family, one of which became my grandmother, Minerva. A Tinner by trade he received a \$9 a month medical pension for many years and died in 1901.

Orphaned as a child, John Kennedy ran away from his grandfather’s farm to enlist in the Army.



He also joined 9th Pennsylvania Reserves in Company K. He served his entire 3 years, mostly with the 9th, but had a few months with the engineer corps. Their best known battles were South Mountain, Antietam, Mine Run, and Fredericksburg. They were a supporting unit at Gettysburg, with only around 380 of the original 1000 soldiers left. The 9th was discharged during Grant’s Wilderness Campaign.

John was Superintendent of the Allegheny County Workhouse for several years; he then became a Grain and Feed Merchant and owned a Livery Stable in Allegheny City. Involved in politics, he was scheduled to be the Allegheny Postmaster when he died in 1898 at age 55.

John Kennedy had an older brother James, and a younger sister Susanna. The sister married Andrew Voegtley after the war. Andrew served in the 61st PA, Companies C and K. He was wounded at the battle of Cold Harbor and finished the war as a corporal. He and Susanna had one girl and were living in the Oakmont area at the end of their life. Listed in the same 61st companies is a James Kennedy, and I found no further info on his service. However I’m guessing that James is my great-grandfather’s brother and probably introduced Susanna to Andrew.

My mother’s note on our family said we had an uncle who died in the war. I’m guessing that it was James B. Kennedy. At any rate, my grandfather’s name was James Burton Kennedy. As a junior the family called me Burt the 3rd, I never liked “Burton” until about 3 years ago when I found this connection with Great-Aunt Susanna Voegtley.