

Military Honor Roll Descendants of Elizabeth Obermeyer Benner

Civil War

Benner, James D. 1835-1917 (Elizabeth Obermeyer Benner) Of Sandusky Co., OH. Pvt., Co. K, 169th Ohio National Guard. He wrote the following to his wife, Rebecca, from Fort Ethan Allen on Aug. 10, 1864 (spellings have not been changed): "I see that you are getting along with the work very well - you and Edwin [James and Rebecca's son] get along so well that I might as well enlist for another year when I get back home so you can farm and I can stay in the army and get along - anyhow if I keep well I would just as well be a soldier as a farmer health is the main part where ever we are."⁷⁵ Farmer. Lutheran. His obituary said, "He was a highly respected citizen and had a large circle of friends. Being one of the old pioneers of the county, his advice was sought and appreciated by his neighbors and friends."⁷⁶

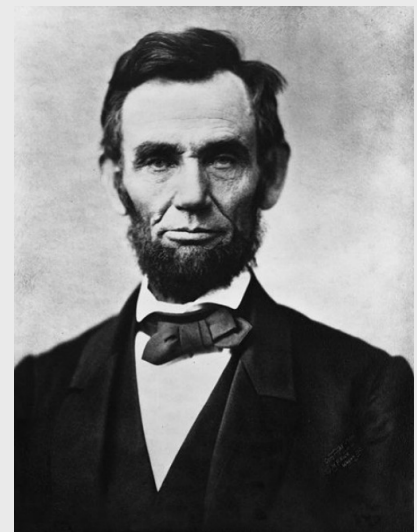


Siblings (l to r): James D. Benner, Harriet Benner Sweet, William H. Benner

Benner, William H. 1840-1912 (Elizabeth Obermeyer Benner) Of Sandusky Co., OH. Sgt., Co. K, 169th Ohio National Guard. Enlisted May 2, 1864, discharged Sep. 4, 1864 at Camp Cleveland, OH.

THE 169TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY OF THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Known as the "100 Day Men," the volunteers of the 169th regiment of the Ohio National Guard, including nine Overmyers and several other relatives, enlisted for 100 days in 1864 and did valuable service for their country. In an official letter dated Dec. 15, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln personally expressed his gratitude to this unit on behalf of the entire country: "In the Valley of the Shenandoah, on the Peninsula, in the Operations on the James River, around Petersburg and Richmond, in the Battle of Monocacy, and in the entrenchments of Washington, and in other important service, the NATIONAL GUARD OF OHIO performed with alacrity the duty of Patriotic Volunteers, for which they are entitled to, and are hereby tendered, through the Governor of their State, the NATIONAL THANKS."⁷⁷ The regiment was mustered in in Cleveland and took their post at Fort Ethan Allen in Arlington, Virginia, with the objective of providing protection for the capital, then under imminent attack. Apparently, they did not see any heavy fighting, but they were involved in repelling the raids of Confederate General Jubal Early. Moreover, the regiment endured significant hardships during their tenure, losing 43 men to an onslaught of disease. By the time they were sent home in September of 1864 after 125 days of service, 500 men were sick and 300 of them were sent to hospitals. The 169th did indeed do their duty. Washington had been saved. Lincoln must have breathed a sigh of relief and no doubt was truly grateful for their service.



President Abraham Lincoln

World War I

Benner, James Levi. 1891-1933 (Calvin Aaron, James D., Elizabeth Obermeyer Benner) Stationed in San Antonio, TX, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic. After the war, he built country roads in Kiowa Co., CO. He was killed in a trucking accident at the age of 42.