Henrietta Munson & Moses Woodington

Clan William

Moses Woodington, Son-in-law of Amos Munson, Goes to War

by C. J. Alderman

Capt Thomas Munson > Samuel Munson > Samuel James Munson > William Munson > Samuel (2nd) Munson > Freeman Munson > Amos Munson > Henrietta Munson m. Moses Woodington

After two years of fighting in the Civil War, both the North and South had to legislate a draft for their military. Moses Woodington (26 Oct 1837 – 18 Feb 1919), like other men, was mandated to sign up for the draft of 1863-1865. He was 25 years old at the time, married to Henrietty Munson, and in 18 months he would be fighting in the war.

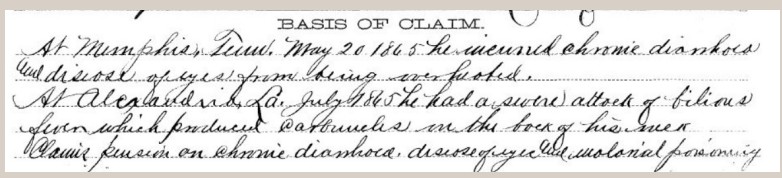
According to the Civil War records, Moses and his brother Jonathan Woodington (16 Dec 1842 – 13 Oct 1918) served in Co. L of the 2nd Wisconsin Calvary. They entered their military service on January 30, 1865 and mustered out (were released from duty) on November 15, 1865 in Texas. It was up to them to then find their way back to Wisconsin from Texas.



Moses Woodington

The war was largely over, and there was really only the major battle for Richmond, VA yet to happen. On Palm Sunday, 09 Apr 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. Six days later, on Good Friday, President Lincoln was assassinated.

Through all of these events in the spring of 1865 and until the following autumn, the 2nd Regiment of the Wisconsin Calvary continued their work. According to Michael O. Varhola's book, *Life in Civil War America*, at that point in the war soldiers were paid about $16/month. He writes, "From their pay, Union privates had $2 per month withheld until expiration of their terms of enlistment, and another 12.5¢ per month withdrawn for support of the Soldiers' Home, a home for old or invalid military retirees"



BASIS OF CLAIM.

At Memphis, Tenn. May 20 1865 he incurred chronic diarrhoea and disease of eyes from being over heated.
At Alexandria La. July 1865 he had a severe attack of bilious fever which produced carbuncles on the back of his neck
Claims pension on chronic diarrhoea, disease of eyes & malarial poisoning

At Memphis, TN May 20, 1865. He incurred chronic diarrhea and disease of eyes... At Alexandria, LA, July 1865, he had a severe attack of bilious fever which produced carbuncles at the back of his neck...

A striking statistic of this regiment (and most others) is that the Regiment, in the four years of war, had 24 enlisted men killed and mortally wounded as well as 4 officers. Consistent with the terrible conditions of Civil War military life, 234 enlisted men died from disease. Total deaths: 312. It tells us something of the hardship Moses likely suffered.

According to the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors website, in 1865, the 2nd Regiment of the Wisconsin Calvary was assigned to service in the 3rd Brigade of the Calvary Division. Late in the war, when Moses and his younger brother, Jonathan, joined up, the Brigade's duty was in east Memphis, TN then marching through Mississippi to Texas. Go to the National Park Service website to see where the 2nd Wisconsin Calvary fought.

The brothers then returned to their homes in Wisconsin. Moses' wife, Henrietta, would die in 1882. He never remarried. The Civil War would haunt him for years to come as his health failed.

About 20 years after the war, Moses applied for a veteran's disability. His first attempt was denied, but his next application was accepted. The disability application was an extensive process including proof of his identity, proof of his service as a veteran, notarized reports by witnesses who knew him before and after the war and who knew of his disability (and that the disabilities were not from "vicious habits"–a phrase used frequently throughout the paperwork), signed reports by physicians, and Moses' own testimony of when the diseases occurred and their ongoing effects.

The basis of his claim to disability was that when he was serving in Memphis, TN in May of 1865, he suffered a sunstroke while "getting out timbers for barracks." He also contracted "disease of the eyes" that one physician's report said was consistent with Trachoma. Additionally, he suffered "malarial poisoning" which was treated in camp and while he marched and which apparently also made him susceptible to carbuncle infections on his neck. When the Regiment arrived in

he suffered "malarial poisoning" which was treated in camp and while he marched and which apparently also made him susceptible to carbuncle infections on his neck. When the Regiment arrived in Alexandria, LA in July, Moses came down with Bilious Fever, a recurring fever marked by diarrhea and vomiting. All of these continued to trouble Moses for the rest of his life.

The basis of Moses' claim for disability from his Civil War military service. By the time of his application for disability, he was also suffering rheumatism with swollen knees, hips, shoulders, and fingers. About 70% of the deaths in his regiment were from disease–a statistic too common for soldiers in the Civil War because of the terrible living conditions and poor hygiene. Clearly, it had lifelong consequences for Moses.

A few years after he returned home, Moses was working at a sawmill and lost some fingers on his right hand. As he wrote the story when he amended his application for disability, under the new law by alleging "loss of fingers of right hand which was caused by a circular saw in a saw mill in which I was there engaged as a sawyar (sic) a man spoke to me and as I turned to answer him the saw struck my hand and cut off three fingers about June 15th, 1868." Later medical reports stated that the third and ring fingers were cut off close to the hand and his little finger was amputated at the second knuckle.

Moses did get disability, and the monthly payments gradually increased as he aged and as the Federal government increased payments with economic changes. Eventually, heart disease and arteriosclerosis were also added to his health issues. His government benefits covered the medical care he needed in the last few years of his life and also paid for most of his funeral costs.

C.J. writes at From Whence We Came

Published 01 Mar 2026