

Notes by the Genealogist who identified Mervin Barber as the Burton ancestor

Mervin P. Barber

Summary of Civil War Service Record

Company E, 154th New York Regiment Infantry

The Company Descriptive Book indicates that Mervin P. Barber was age 37 at the time of his enlistment in 1862. He was 5'9½" tall, had a dark complexion, dark hair and blue eyes. He was born in Bridgewater, Pennsylvania and worked as a carpenter.

Mervin P. Barber was enlisted as a private in Company E, 154th New York Regiment Infantry on August 22, 1862 in Portland, New York by J.B. Fay for a term of 3 years, and was mustered into service at Jamestown, New York September 24, 1862.

For most of his service, from November, 1862 to February, 1864, the Company Muster Roll indicates that Mervin P. Barber was "on detached service" in either the "Division Pioneer Corps" or the "Brigade Pioneer Corps." According to an archivist at The National Archives, the "Pioneer Corps" was a group of soldiers selected from the regiments in the division to travel slightly ahead of the division to build or repair roads and bridges, an assignment which undoubtedly made use of his carpentry skills.

The Company Descriptive Book indicates that Mervin P. Barber saw action at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Valley, Tennessee and Chattanooga.

The Muster Roll indicates he was in the division hospital since August 25, 1864. The September/October 1864 Muster Roll says he was "present," however his pension file and hospital card record both indicate that he was in the division hospital until October 8, 1864. the September/October 1864 Muster Roll card also has a notation reading, "Name appears in Column of Present as Pelom P. Barber."

The Muster-Out Roll indicates that Mervin P. Barber was mustered out with Company E of the 154th Regiment NY Infantry on June 11, 1865 at Bladensburg, Maryland. This card indicates that he was still a private on his muster-out date; however, his hospital card and his pension file state that he was a corporal by the time he was hospitalized in August 1864.

Note by John J. Burton

I doubt that Mervin was involved in actual fighting before Oct. 1864 because he was in the Pioneer Corps until then, and in his 1864 diary there is no mention of his being personally involved in any combat.

Notes by John J. Burton::

Paul Lockwood, a great,great grandson of Mervin Marber, has the two original versions of Mervin's diary. Paul reports that the first original was damaged when a shell hit Mervin's campfire scattering embers which set fire to his things with the fire put out by throwing coffee on it. Mervin later made a copy which differs in places from the first.. Paul made copies of both for John J. Burton who had a friend type a draft.which was then checked and revised by Paul and John. We expect that minor revisions will be found which John can make easily as this draft is in his computer.

I inserted italicized notes at spots in order to enable the reader to more easily connect events in the diary to the historical record of the war.

THE DIARY

M.P. Barber
Bok of the 2 Brigade
Pioneers 2 div, 20 Amy Corp

M.P. Barber Book –
154 rig Ny Co, E

M.P. Barber Book
Atlanta Geo

M.P. Barber Brocton
Chataquea Co. Ny

_____of
C Austin's

to cash \$2,00

A Prise _____
to cash \$2,00

L.S. Heraton _____
to cash lent \$2,00

J. Merchlinger _____
to cash ,60

B. Dillingham _____
to cash lent \$1,00

Hospitable Brown _____
to cash \$1,00

Charles Driggs
to cash \$2,00

Lieut Minghe _____
to cash \$10,00

June 29, 1864

_____akes _____
to tobacco \$1,50

June 25

John Merchlinger _____
to tobacco \$1,50

John Legrange _____
to tobacco \$1,50

to tobacco \$1,50

June 29, 1864

John _____
to tobacco \$1,50

A.B. Prien _____

to tobacco \$ _____ 10

Wm Lewis _____

to tobacco \$2,00

Acct of C. Austins