

ii. EVA, b May 1888 (25 Sept 1887?); m RAY CALHOUN.

Ch (OYER) of 2nd m:

- 156. iii. GEORGE, b 10 May 1925
- 157. iv. EARL, b 1928
- 158. v. LESTER, b 8 Feb 1931
- 159. vi. DONALD, b 26 Apr 1933

[Source for #67 through #97: AHA]



Gravestone Oscar and Anna (Weldon) Oyer, MRC; shows date discrepancies.

Courtesy of: Mrs. Phyllis Oye

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CHAPTER 10

FIFTH GENERATION

97. CLARK E.⁵ OYER, (*Peter⁴. David³. Jacob². Frederick¹*), born Frklnv., Catt. Co. 4 July 1836; died Los Angeles, Calif. 29 Apr. 1923. He married 1st Alpena, Mich. 26 June 1871 SARAH DAVIS; div'd St. Cloud, Minn. Oct. 1886. He married 2nd Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 12 July 1909 ELLEN BURCH.

Civil war records describe Clark as 5'7" in height, with a light complexion, blue eyes, and light brown hair. On 18 Aug. 1862 at Jamestown he enlisted as a private in Co. G of the 154th Reg. of N.Y. Volunteers. He was eventually promoted to sergeant, but his military career was filled with hardships. In Jan. 1863 at Fredericksburg, Va. he hurt his back and was excused from duty on and off for the next 6 months. He fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, Penn., and 1 July 1863 was taken prisoner. While being held at Richmond, Va. he became afflicted with the problem of chronic diarrhea; during his 33 day imprisonment he received no treatment for this. From Richmond he was taken to Annapolis, Md., and thence to Camp Row, near Alexandria, Va. He rejoined his regiment at Bridgeport, Ala.

For the next 15 months he was treated for his sickness. While fighting outside of Savannah, Ga. 12 Dec. 1864 he was again taken prisoner and held at Savannah Jail until 4 Mar. 1865. During this period he was subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment, and upon his release was emaciated and unable to return to duty. He was sent to Navy Yard Hospital, Annapolis, for about a month; then received furlough and went home to Ellvl. He returned to Navy Yard Hospital for 15-20 days; then was sent to Wilmington, Del. Hospital until his discharge, which took place at Elmira 6 July 1865.

Returning home to Ellvl. he lived with his father. He was described at this time as thin in flesh, emaciated, and in very poor health and weak. He was unable to perform any sort of heavy farm labor because of his back and illness. Family tradition tells of his having to be fed soup by spoonful to help him overcome the debilitating effects of starvation.

In Oct. 1871 he went to Stillwater, Washington Co., Minn., living there and in other parts of that state during much of the 1880's. He later resided in Mich., Ark., and Orting, Wash. state. He worked as a lumberman and cooked for the lumber camp, as well as other light work.

We can follow Clark's travels through record of his pension payments, the last finding him in Los Angeles, where he died in

1923. Unfortunately, a 1987 check of the county and surrogate records of that city proved fruitless in locating his children.

We are fortunate to have obtained late in 1987 letters written mostly to Jacob Oyer (#26) from family members, including many from Civil War soldiers. One from Clark, written from the "Camp of the 154th N.Y. Vols., Lookout Valley, Tenn., Dec. 15th, 1863" follows [for portion of it, see Illus p 164]:

Dear Uncle and Family,

Yours came to hand yesterday. I was glad you were in such good spirits and have plenty of eggs and potatoes but I shall be obliged to decline your invitation for the present at least. A furlough I would not take if I had the chance and my term of enlistment has not half expired yet. So you will have a chance to raise potatoes twice yet before you see me unless this cruel war should suddenly come to a terminus.

Well the 23rd of last month we left the Valley and crossed over into Chattanooga and on the 24th made the ground attacks the left centre was [attacked ?] by western troops our right [] on their left in line of Battle. We gained a ridge that was not much inferior to old missionary herself. That night we worked making rifle pits, planting artillery and getting ready for the morning. Well morning came and [] Old Joe for he and Genl Thomas took to running the Rebs off Lookout mountain. Something of a Job but after 12 hours hard fighting Joe held the mountain. All this time Genl Sherman was not idle he was on the extreme left and turned their flank in that direction. On the 3 1/2 day our Brigade marched to the extreme left to protect Shermans flank and it was all serene with us. Our Regt did not get the brunt of it in the Battle we only had 9 men wounded in the whole 3 days. On the fourth we took our line of march in pursuit of the retreating Rebs. Such sights of ammunition and culsens [] corn and corn meal at Chlckamunga Station every mud hole chucked full of shell and culsenter [?], one car load of fixed ammunition [s] the truck. Well in we went and had a bully Thanksgiving fresh pork corn meal and molasses coffee and sugar. Well when we got to Talkers ? [] two companies of us were detached [dispatched] to [guard ?] prisoners into Chattanooga and then came into our old camp. Remained here until the 13th of this month then all ordered to guard a waggon train to the corps [confs ?]. I started but had to back out. I have had the Tenn quickstep [diarrhea] so long

that I am pretty weak. If I only had a box of those pills that we used to get I think they would straighten me up again but we dont get any medicine here that is any ac[ount] at all.

You asked me how I would like a cemish [commission ?] in a colored Regt. I would accept one for I dont imagine I shall ever get one here our Regt is so small that we cannot muster all the officers that have already got their cemissions <sic> and have had ever since last July.

The weather has been cloudy and rainy a few days past but now it has cleared again and last night we had a frost.

Good bye write soon
Yours truly
Clark Oyer
Co G 154 N.Y.S. V.
11th A.C. Army
of the Cumberland
Nashville, Tenn.

The "cuisens" apparently refers to food/food supplies.

Ch (OYER), all of 1st m, both alive 10 Mar 1915:

- i. MATTIE, b Orting, Wash. (?) 31 Mar 1873
- ii. JESSIE, b 22 Jan 1879

98. DAVID SMITH⁵ OYER (*Peter⁴. David³. Jacob². Frederick¹*), born Plato, Ellvl. Twp. 26 Apr 1847; died GrV 17 June 1929; buried GrC. He married at the Atlantic House, Sala., Catt. Co., 28 Oct 1876, RUTH ELLEN/ELLA BROWN, dau. of Sheldon P. and Juliaette (Doud) Brown, born Napoll Twp., Catt Co., 2 Feb. 1859; died 175 River St., Salamanca (hereafter Sala.) 10 Apr 1948; buried GrC.

Smith Oyer (as he was known) grew up on his father's farm in Ellvl. As a young man he was a policeman in New York City for a short time; the rest of his life was spent either on his farm in the hamlet of Willoughby, GrV Twp., or in Sala. Smith's father-in-law Sheldon Brown gave him 50 acres of his land in Willoughby, on which he built his house and barn. He later added another 50 acres in Peth, adjoining. This land is still in the family, where Smith's grandson Paul F. Oyer currently lives (see #231).

Smith met his wife Ella while helping to build Sheldon's house. Ella and Smith's elopement at her early age caused Sheldon much anguish, obviously soon overcome by the Oyer magnetism so often found.