

Object ID: *MG0828_SeriesE_F05*

Document: *Thomas Welsh Family History (Blanton Charles Welsh)*

Transcription:

My father, Thomas Welsh, was born in Columbia Pa in Third Street between Locust and Walnut Streets. He was the son of Charles and Nancy Daugherty Welsh. He was eight years old when his father died, and was obliged to leave school going to work in a nail mill at Safe Harbor. In spite of the fact that he never again attended school regularly, he became a fairly well educated man, as shown by his later correspondence and articles written from the war to Philadelphia and local papers. Later he learned the carpenter's trade, went west to Pittsburg, then Cincinnati and finally to Fort Smith Arkansas.

At the outbreak of the Mexican War, he enlisted in the 2nd Kentucky Volunteers and served through all of General Taylor's campaign, as private, and 1st Sergeant until the Battle of Buena Vista where he was badly wounded. In the hospital at Monterey, his leg was marked for amputation but through the intervention of a Dr. Blanton the leg was saved. After his recovery, though always quite lame, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant, 11th US Infantry, joined the regiment and marched with General Scott to the City of Mexico.

At the close of the war, he returned to Columbia, secured a position with the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. Later he established himself in business at the Canal Basin, owned a fleet of Canal Boats, and also served as Justice of the Peace until the outbreak of the Civil War. One of his boats, the Blanton C. Welsh remained in service until the canal was abandoned.

He married Nancy—Annie Eunice Young. There were six children,- Alice, Mary, Effie, Addie, Lilian, Blanton C, and T Anna.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, when the first call for volunteers was made, he organized and took to Harrisburg the first company from Lancaster County; the company was mustered into the 2nd Regiment of Pa volunteers. He became successively Captain, Major, and LieutColonel. Mustered out at the end of the three months service, he was appointed Colonel of the 45th Pennsylvania Volunteers and placed in command of the organization Camp at Harrisburg where he organized his regiment.

Shortly after organization of the 9th Army Corps he, as senior colonel of his division, was in command of a brigade of four regiments in General Orlando B. Wilcox division.

Among other distinguished services his brigade was credited with breaking the Confederate line in the Battle of South Mountain and again at the Stone Bridge at Antietam, where today his regimental monument stands in one of the most advanced locations of the battlefield. He was appointed Brigadier General in the fall of 1862.

In 1863, his Brigade took part in the operations about Vicksburg and in August with his troops moving north he was taken with fever and died in Cincinnati August 14.

My mother was as good a soldier as he and with a negligible income kept the family together and kept us all at school. She was to my mind the finest woman I ever knew. My words of praise would prove inadequate to express my love and admiration for her.

Sister Mary was a teacher in Columbia Schools. Lilian, a graduate of Millersville State Normal School taught for some years then studied medicine, attended the University of Zurich Switzerland, finally settled in Baltimore and was for many years



Professor in Goucher College retiring in 1927. Thomas attended the Conservatory of Music in Boston and became a teacher of music.

I – BCW – left Public School a year before graduation to enter West Point, graduating in 1882, became 2nd Lieutenant 15th Infantry joined at Fort Wingate and later served at Fort Lyon Col., Fort Abraham Lincoln Dakota, Fort Keogh Montana, Camp Poplar River Montana, Fort Buford Dakota, Jackson Barracks La, and Fort Sheridan Ill. I was retired for Disability in line of duty at Fort Sheridan Dec 27, 1894

Analysis: Wiggin

This is a family history written by Blanton Charles Welsh sometime after 1927, probably well into the mid to late '30s, when he seems to have devoted more of his time to collecting, organizing, and documenting his family and his own personal experiences. It seems to have been written from a combination of recollections and Thomas Welsh papers (or perhaps more accurately, his recollection of what the TW papers said). There appears to be at least one or two errors (TW actually recorded that his father died when he was 2, not 8, and that the nail factory was at Colemanville, several miles south of Safe Harbor – see MG0828_SeriesA_F01 It01).

Scope and Content:

Handwritten account of the life and military career of Thomas Welsh. Discusses the role of his mother Annie in keeping the family together and the careers of himself and three of his siblings: Mary, Lillian, and Thomas Anna.

