

THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF
PHILIP BOLTIN
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Research focused on learning about Philip Boltin of Darke County, Ohio. Searches uncovered information about his parents as well as Philip's married life, which included time in the Union Army. It was his time in the Civil War that contributed to his death at the age of forty-three. Details about Philip Boltin and the Boltin family will follow along with footnoted resources.

William Boltin arrived in Ohio from Pennsylvania while in his twenties. At this time northwestern Ohio was still part of frontier America. With the end of the War of 1812 and the recent expulsion of the Native Americans from most of the state, settlers flooded into Ohio. In the south and east part of Ohio, the federal government and the State of Virginia claimed large areas in order to fulfill their need for bounty lands. As the Native Americans were moved out of the northwest quarter of the state, land-hungry settlers flooded in by 1820. About this time William Boltin arrived in Darke County, Ohio. His specific place of residence in Pennsylvania has not yet been determined.

The 1820 U.S. Census of Adams Township, Darke County, Ohio¹ showed a William Boltin as a head of household. Considering the age of his wife Dorcas in the 1850 enumeration, the woman listed in 1820 could not have been Dorcas. The woman in the 1820 enumeration was born before 1794, and was undoubtedly a first wife of William Boltin. Allegedly William Boltin married Dorcas Miller, a Maryland native, in Montgomery County, Ohio in 1823². At the time of this marriage William Boltin was in his early thirties, while Dorcas was about age twenty-one. Dorcas accompanied William to Darke County where he had acquired land through sales at the federal land office in Cincinnati, Ohio.³ By 1830,⁴ the Boltin family had settled on farm lands in the county. For the rest of their lives, William and Dorcas Boltin raised their family and pursued a life in agriculture in Darke County, Ohio.

The early censuses of Darke County, Ohio suggest that William and Dorcas Boltin may have had a daughter born between 1823 and 1830. Later records document that they raised five sons and two daughters on their Darke County farm. A dispute over the estate of William and Dorcas Boltin verifies that the two daughters were Ruth and Mary.⁵ The five sons, as per the 1850 census, were Reazin, born about 1825, Henry S., born about 1830, Isaac, born about 1833, Philip (the focus of this report), born about 1835, and Morrison, born about 1840. The 1850 U.S. Census of Richland Township, Darke County, Ohio⁶ verified that the four younger boys were still at home with their parents, sixty-one year-old William, and forty-eight year-old Dorcas Boltin. Isaac and

¹ 1820 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Adams Township, Darke, Ohio, Page 80A, Line 7, William Bolton Household, .jpeg image (Online: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2006), <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>, subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], accessed May 2006. Document 18.

² The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, comp., *International Genealogical Index*, version 5.0, William Boltin marriage (Online: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., 1999-2003), <<http://www.familysearch.org/>>, accessed March 2006. Document 9.

³ Anita Short, *Darke County, Ohio Deed Records 1817-1834* (S.I.: s.n., 1968), pp. 129, FHL Book 977.147 R2s. Document 12.

⁴ 1830 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Adams Township, Darke, Ohio, Page 32, Line 24, William Bolton Household, .jpeg image (Online: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003), <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>, subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], accessed March 2006. Document 17.

⁵ Anita Short, *Darke County, Common Pleas Court Records, 1817-1860* (S.I.: s.n., 1968), pp. 119, FHL Book 977.147 P2d. Document 14.

⁶ 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Richland Township, Darke, Ohio, Page , Dwelling 55, Family 58, William Boltin Household, .jpeg image (Online: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003), subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>, accessed March 2006. Document 6.

Philip Boltin worked with their father on the farm, which was estimated to be worth \$1,500.00. Henry S. Boltin worked as a carpenter.

During the period of Philip Boltin's youth, there was a great interest in canal building in the state of Ohio. Before the advent of rail transportation, the method of moving goods by canal boats became the rage from 1830 to 1850. Investors with local Ohio canal companies were especially motivated by the success of the Erie Canal in New York. Many young men were lured into the opportunity of making money by working on the canal lines. With the railroads coming on line in the 1850's many young males in Ohio left home to pursue work in the growing railroad industry as well. Philip Boltin seemed content to stay in Darke County, Ohio to pursue farming. On January 29, 1858 Philip Boltin married Juliet Smith⁷ and they soon settled on a farm in Richland Township. In the 1860 U.S. Census, this farm was considered to be \$1,000.00 in value.⁸

A copy of the "Family Record" from the Boltin Family Bible was included in the Civil War pension application⁹. This record documented that Philip and Juliet Boltin had three children before Philip entered the service: Damaris Boltin, born 24 June 1859, Warren Hastings Boltin, born 16 January 1861, but died two months later, and Lois Helen Boltin, born 5 February 1862. The 1860 census taker undoubtedly misread his scratch notes since his transcription of Philip's wife and children did not match the Family Bible or known family information. Unfortunately, such errors were not uncommon.

The first half of the Civil War raged on while Philip Boltin pursued his agricultural pursuits and raised his two daughters in Darke County, Ohio. News of the struggles of the Union Army to attain success against the Confederacy was undoubtedly the talk among his neighbors. In fact, up until the victory at Gettysburg in the summer of 1863, the war had become quite unpopular among many northerners. Philip Boltin and

⁷ Darke County Ohio, Probate Court, Marriage Records, 1817-1911 (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978-9) [Microfilm of original records in the Ohio Historical Society and Wright State Univ., Dayton, Ohio], Marriage of Philip Bolton & Juliet Smith, FHL Microfilm 1,030,769. Document 10.

⁸ 1860 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Richland Township, Darke, Ohio, Page 182-3, Dwelling 1300, Family 1308, Philip Boltin Household, .jpeg image (Online: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003), subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>, accessed March 2006. Document 3.

⁹ United States, Bureau of Pensions, Civil War Pension Application, Philip and Juliet Bolton, National Archives, Washington D.C., by Correspondence Document 19.

his brother, Isaac, answered the call to arms in May of 1864. They, as well as thousands of other Ohioans, understood the reasoning of the Ohio Governor at this time of need.

In the spring of 1864, the Confederate Army was on its heels. Victories by Sherman in the south and the retreat of Lee in the north gave the Union cause for great optimism. Strategists felt that a great military push during the summer of 1864 could draw the war to conclusion sooner with a victory for the North. To accomplish this, there was a need for a quick influx of men. Rather than rushing raw troops into battlefield situations, men could be trained quick enough to be a support, while more seasoned troops could be freed to fight on the battlefield. With this in mind, the Governor of Ohio put out the call for men to sign up for just one hundred days.

Philip Boltin and other farmers like him undoubtedly reasoned that they could plant their fields in April and be back for the harvest in September. They understood that they would be part of a group of men entitled the "Ohio National Guard"¹⁰, who would man forts, perform guard duty and be a support in the back lines. What these men thought and what became reality were two different things. Studies by the Ohio Adjutant General, after the Civil War, showed that these "One Hundred Day Men" suffered a higher rate of casualty than the rest of the army. Of the 35,725 men raised in Ohio, over 1,100 died and many more suffered diseases that they would struggle with for the rest of their lives. The latter was the case with Philip Boltin.

Philip Boltin and his brother, Isaac, signed up for the one hundred day enlistment on 2 May 1864.¹¹ Within a few days, they were in training at Camp Denison, Ohio, where both men were assigned to Company I of the 152nd Ohio Infantry. After only ten days of training, Philip Boltin and Company I were sent by train, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, to Cumberland, Maryland to await assignment. By the 2nd of June, Philip and his company were assigned to Martinsburg, West Virginia. At Martinsburg they were to

¹⁰ Clifton M. Nichols, *A Summer Campaign in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864* (Springfield, Oh.: New Era Company, 1899), pp. 9-11, 18-19, FHL Fiche 6,118,827. Document 5.

¹¹ Ohio State Adjutant General's Office, *Official Register of Soldiers in the State of Ohio, 1861-1866* (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1959-60) [Microfilm of original records in the Adjutant General's Office, Columbus, Ohio], Records of 152nd Infantry, FHL Microfilm 284,869. Document 4.

join with General Hunter's command. Company I was to guard a train of 213 wagons heading to the front lines in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.¹²

This march by Philip Boltin from 4 June 1864 to 2 July 1864 covered over 500 miles and was his physical undoing. According to testimony from men who served with Philip, it appears that the men in his company were poorly supplied with rations. W.B. Brown stated that, "Bolton, his disease was from forsted (sic) marching & irregular rations caused by haveing (sic) to forage for all that we eat." Isaac Miller recounts that the weather was "extremely hot". Considering that food and water were at a premium and that the weather was hot and humid, makes it understandable that the outcome of foraging for food and water would result in sickness. One drink of bad water or tainted food could result in parasites and other maladies that would result in a bad case of what was reported as, "Camp Diarrhea".¹³

Reports indicate that half way through the march, Philip Boltin was totally debilitated with diarrhea, to the point that he had to be relieved from his duties much of the time. Jason E. Miller reported that he asked Philip what was the matter and he said, "I've got the diarrhea and have got it bad". Philip Boltin made it through the march, but in a weakened state, and at the end of the march having to rehabilitate in Cumberland, Maryland before being discharged on 2 September 1864.

The nearly one month march was no cake-walk for Philip Boltin and Company I. At this point the Confederate forces were in guerilla warfare mode. At times they met resistance by groups of 100 to 300 Confederates who attacked the wagon train but were repulsed. Along with marches of up to twenty-five miles a day, Philip's company was also called upon to demolish strategic sites. They burned a bridge on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, burned Buford Station and the Grace Iron Works. They also destroyed fortifications on Blue Ridge. At times they would meet resistance during these actions, which resulted in a loss of a few men. Thus it can be seen that the "One Hundred Day Men" did not just sit back in camp, but were caught up in the middle of a guerilla war, which as can be seen in Iraq, can be more dangerous than a front line battle.

¹² Janet B. Hewett, *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, (Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1997), pp. 96-98 & 108-111, 152nd Ohio Infantry and Co. H, FHL Book 973 M29u ser. 1 v.56. Document 8.

¹³ United States, Bureau of Pensions, Civil War Pension Application, Philip and Juliet Bolton, National Archives, Washington D.C., by Correspondence. Document 19.

Philip Boltin returned home in September 1864 as a physically broken man. W.B. Brown said that, "after his return from the service, up to the time of his death, he never fully recovered from the disease." Charles Luker claimed, "We were together all of the time and while together I know he suffered constantly from the said complaint. After our return from the service I know he suffered from the said disease until his death."

After the war, Philip Boltin made every attempt to get back to normal family life on his farm in Richland Township, Darke County, Ohio. Three more children were born after the war; Lois Helen Boltin, on 30 March 1866, Austin Melville Boltin, born on 17 August 1868 and died 11 April 1875, and Laura Mabel Boltin, born 8 September 1877. Philip Boltin died 25 April 1878, just seven months after the birth of Laura Mabel and was buried in the Beamville Cemetery in Richland Township.¹⁴ Also buried in this graveyard were his parents and his brothers, Isaac and Henry, along with his young sons, Austin and Warren.

The cause of death given for Philip Boltin was recorded as "Brain Fever". A doctor's report in the pension application refers to Typhoid Fever and Philip's poor physical state before his sickness. W.E. Hovven, M.D., reported that Philip had "ulcerations of the bowel and his health was poor", the doctor also stated that "I firmly believe that the chronic diarrhea was in that way the cause of the fever" that resulted in his death.

Philip's death left Juliet in a terrible situation, with a newborn child and daughters who could not work the farm. Juliet did her best to struggle on with the farm. Cyrus Minnich reported that, "since the death of Philip Boltin she is practically dependent upon her daily labor for support- she has a dowry in a sixty acre farm, but the taxes and keeping the farm in repair takes nearly all of the income, she has no personal property, so the only sources of income she has is in her daily labors." Taking into consideration that she had an infant daughter to raise made this a sad situation.

Juliet Boltin never remarried and struggled on to raise her family. She lived on as a widow until her death on 31 December 1926, at the age of eighty-six, and was buried next to her husband in the Beamsville Cemetery. During the last thirteen years of her life, she was bedridden in a paralytic state (probably from a stroke?). During that time, Juliet

¹⁴ Anita Short, *Darke County, Cemetery Inscriptions* (S.I.: s.n., 1972), pp. 12-13, FHL Book 977.147 V3s v.2. Document 13.

resided with her youngest daughter, Lois Mabel Hereford, of Detroit, Michigan. While she was paralyzed, she composed poems, one of which appeared in her obituary.¹⁵ The poem gives a sense of her love for God even through much affliction.

“The years I’ve been sick
The time has seemed long;
I have found Jesus,
And he has made me strong,
I took up my cross
His love I shall keep:
Through the deep waters
He leadeth my feet....
Death is not bitter,
To me it seems sweet:
Jesus in Glory
I hope I shall meet;
And with His dear love
I shall kneel at his feet.”

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¹⁵ United States, Bureau of Pensions, Civil War Pension Application, Philip and Juliet Bolton, National Archives, Washington D.C., by Correspondence. Document 19.