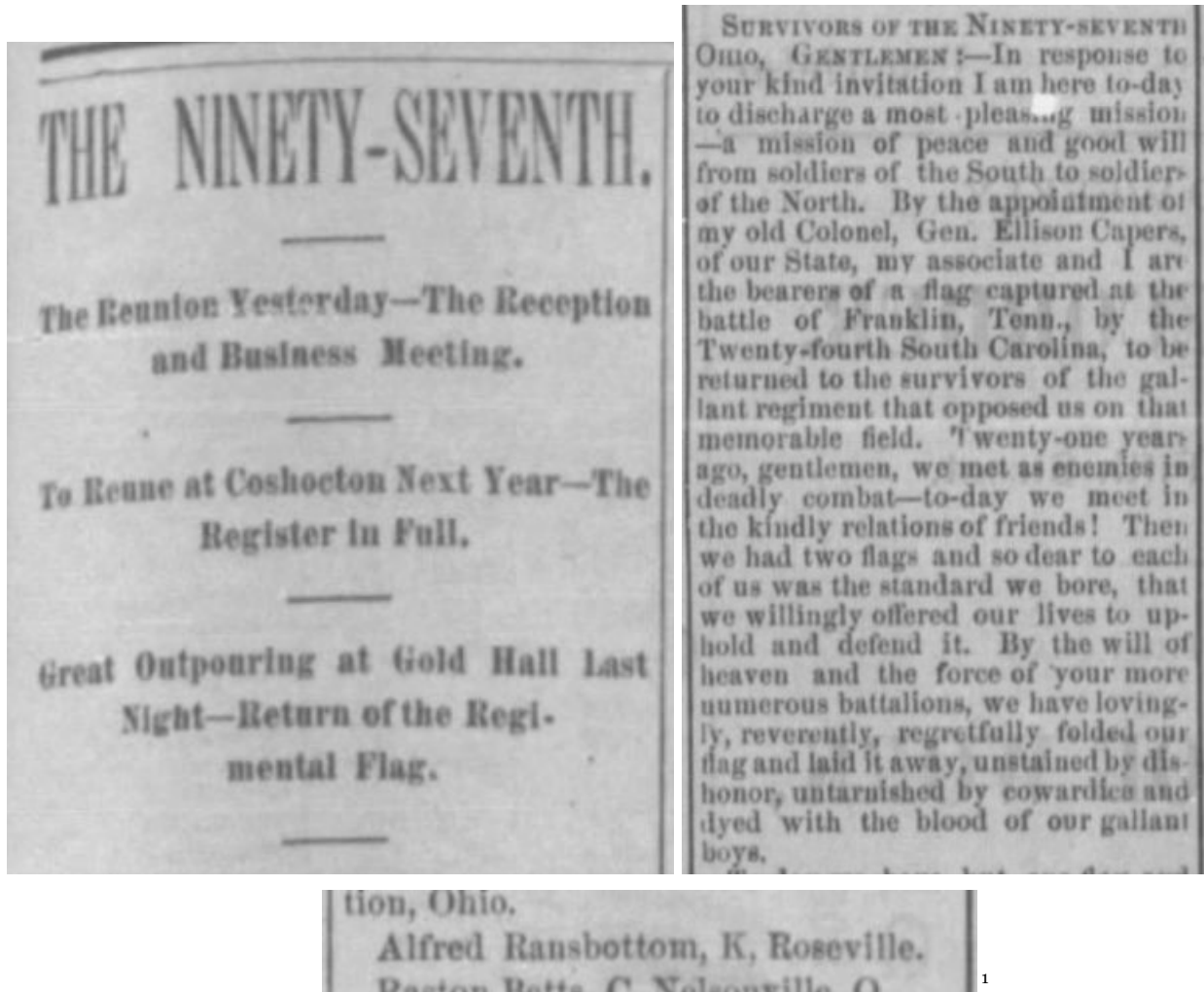


1st Sgt. Alfred Ransbottom, Co. K, 97th OH Infantry, USA

- 1831 Alfred Ransbottom was born in Delaware County, OH.
- 1850 Sep 16: The US Federal Census enumerated in Muskingum County, OH showed Alfred Ransbottom at eighteen years old employed as a potter. He lived in the household of a man named John Horr. John Horr was a farmer with a wife and seven children.
- 1858 Apr 21: Alfred Ransbottom married Ruth Wickham in Muskingum County, OH.
- 1860 Aug 6: The US Federal Census enumerated in Muskingum County, OH listed Alfred Ransbottom as a twenty eight year old man and the head of his household. He lived with his wife Ruth and a three month old son named William. Two households before Alfred is John Horr and his family.
- 1862 Aug 11: Enlisted in the US Army in Muskingum County, OH.
- Sep 2: Mustered into Co. K, 97th OH Infantry as a corporal.
- 1863 Mar 5: Promoted to Sergeant, Co. K, 97th OH Infantry.
- May 10: Promoted to 1st Sergeant, Co. K, 97th OH Infantry.
- 1864 Nov 30: The 97th OH Infantry was heavily engaged at the Battle of Franklin. This regiment was part of Col. John Lane's brigade of Gen. George Wagner's Division. Lane's brigade was in position in front of the main body of the Federal Army and its exposed position led Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood to order an attack there that sought to force these men back into their own comrades' field of fire. The Confederate attack succeeded and the 97th OH was sent streaming back towards the main line. However they were nowhere near out of danger. They were in between attacking rebels and friendly defenders that needed to return fire. Somehow in the maelstrom breaking out around the Carter farm, 1st Sgt. Alfred Ransbottom saw a Confederate battle flag through the smoke, seized the colors, and jumped back to safety. The 97th OH continued fighting until the Confederate attack was called off. They moved north that night for Nashville.
- 1865 Feb 4: 1st Sgt. Alfred Ransbottom was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in the face of the enemy and capturing an enemy battle flag.
- 1870 Aug 12: The US Federal Census enumerated in Perry County, OH listed Alfred as a thirty eight year old potter that lived with his wife, two sons, and two daughters.
- 1880 Jun 15: The US Federal Census enumerated in Perry County, OH found Alfred Ransbottom as forty eight years old. He was employed as a potter and lived with his wife Ruth, one daughter, and five sons.

1885 Dec 1: The 97th OH Infantry's battle flag had been captured by the 24th SC Infantry during the Battle of Franklin. Post-war, correspondence began between leaders of these regiments and the 97th OH asked to have their flag returned. Ellison Capers, formerly commander of the 24th SC Infantry, agreed and in 1885 members of the 24th SC traveled north to return the colors. It is an excellent story emblematic of the shared feeling of wanting to embrace the unity of the country still feeling the effects of the war.



1890 The Veterans' Schedule of the US Census enumerated that year listed Alfred Ransbottom in Muskingum County, OH.

1893 Apr 14: Alfred Ransbottom died in Hamilton County, OH. He was buried in the Roseville Cemetery in Roseville, OH.

¹ *The Times Recorder*, Zanesville, OH, Dec 1, 1885, pg. 1.



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Jun 9:

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| <p style="text-align: center;">SOMETHING VERY UNUSUAL.</p> <p>The following extract from a Roseville, O. paper gives an account of the death and burial of an old soldier who had fought through many battles in four years field service but had never applied for a pension. He was a brother-in-law of Mrs. O. C. R. Randall.</p> <p>"The funeral of Alfred Ransbottom, one of the largest ever witnessed in this place, took place from the M. E. church Sunday afternoon.</p> <p>A special train brought the remains, family, friends and a large delegation from Hazlett post, from Zanesville. They were met at the depot by Axline post, of Roseville, and Thomas Burley post, of Crooksville, and a great number of citizens and old neighbors of Mr. Ransbottom.</p> <p>The M. E. Church was altogether inadequate to the crowd that assembled and only a portion of them were able to gain admission.</p> | <p>The M. E. Church was altogether inadequate to the crowd that assembled and only a portion of them were able to gain admission.</p> <p>The funeral discourse by Rev. T. J. Danford from the text: "I have finished the fight, I have run my course. I have kept the faith," was an able and fitting tribute to the character of the deceased, as citizen, patriot, and Christian. * * *</p> <p>* * * During the war he served in the 97th O. I. V. with honor and distinction. At Franklin, Tenn., he rested the colors from a confederate color bearer and for this act of bravery he was furloughed, called to Washington and given a medal by congress.</p> <p>From time to time he served in important positions, among which was trustee of Clay township, and a member of the board of education of the Roseville school district, in both of which positions he served acceptably and well.</p> <p>It was with much regret that the people of the place learned of his death and all unite in their sympathy for the family in their sad bereavement,</p> |
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² findagrave.com/user/Don Morfe

³ *The Atwood Patriot*, Atwood, Kansas, Jun 9, 1893, pg. 1.

1919:

**HONOR MEDAL LOST
55 YEARS GIVEN TO
F. M. RANSBOTTOM**

**Congressional Award to Alfred
Ransbottom for Valor Arrives
Year sAfter Death**

Frank Ransbottom of South Seventh street, was notified Saturday by the war department that a congressional medal of honor had been awarded his deceased father, Alfred Ransbottom, for valor at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. The medal was voted to the late Mr. Ransbottom on Nov. 30, 1864, but through unaccountable delays in the war department, was not presented to Mr. Ransbottom during his life. It was through the efforts of Senator Harding that the honor was finally accorded the Ransbottom family.

Mr. Ransbottom was sergeant of Company K, 97th regiment, and displayed remarkable bravery in capturing the confederate colors and standard bearer at Franklin. He enlisted in Zanesville at the outbreak of the war. He lived in Nashport at the time and located in Roseville after the war.

⁴ *The Times Recorder*, Zanesville, Ohio, Oct 6, 1919, pg. 7.

Ransbottom Pottery Company Tradition Began In 1820s

Alfred Ransbottom's expertise with a pottery wheel began in the 1820s and more than 150 years later that reputation is still recognized and admired locally.

Ransbottom, father of the four founding brothers of the Ransbottom Brothers Pottery Company begun in 1900, was an excellent potter in the days of the small "Bluebird" potteries. He enlisted in the Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War and was among the earliest Ohio recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

After the war, he returned to his work as a potter and during the next 20 years, he taught his six sons to become experts as well.

Four of the brothers chose pottery-making as their careers, each in a specialty different from the others. Ideally fitted for such a venture, they threw in together to purchase the small two-story building known as The Oval Ware and Brick Company in Beem City, now known as Ironspot, an unincorporated village one mile north of Roseville.

Operation of the meager facility as a pottery began in 1901. Products were flower pots, cuspidors, and jardinières (all of which are still being made by the company!).

A stoneware pottery in Saltillo, with 35 employees, was also purchased by the four brothers, but this plant was soon closed, and its operations were transferred to the



Reelected and newly-elected officers and managers of the Robinson-Ransbottom Pottery Company, Roseville, chosen by the company's board of directors on April 22 are: left to right, seated: Donald Pace, Vice-President-Sales; Pete Petratsas, Personnel Director and Ceramist; Ed Page, Plant Superintendent; Dick Ransbottom, Vice-President; Larry Skillman, Purchasing Agent; Larry Haley, Assistant Sales Manager and Harry Kinnan, Traffic Manager. Left to right, standing Jack

Roseville pottery.

In 1906, with the addition of stoneware jars, jugs and other products in great demand, the physical plant had been increased to cover six acres. This included a three-story manufacturing area, four huge stocksheds, and twelve large stationary (round), or periodic kilns, which were heated slowly, kept at peak heat for about 24 hours, and then cooled

slowly.

Although hand-turning ("throwing") was employed in a large part of their production for several years after 1901, by 1906 the brothers had installed production speed-up machinery then being introduced, and in 1912, the company was completing a railroad carload of ware for every working hour.

In 1916, The Ransbottom Brothers Pottery Company had become the world's largest manufacturer of stoneware jars ("crocks," as many users describe them) — a position which the company still holds.

Woodward, Assistant President; Earl Ditter, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer; Alfred Ransbottom, President and General Manager; Francis Rider, Vice-President and Chief Engineer and Fred Luman, Assistant General Manager. All of the officers of the 76-year-old company attended Roseville schools. Alfred Ransbottom, a son of one of the four founding brothers, and Dick Ransbottom, grandson of another, continue the pottery-manufacturing tradition of their ancestors begun in the 1820s.

After World War I, public interest in home decorating caused the three remaining brothers (one had died in 1915) to devote much of the company's production to gardenware, which included bird baths, sand jars, large plant containers, and a variety of large vases hand-decorated in glaze.

This diversification brought the need of an assured market, which was supplied when The Robinson Clay Product Co., a nationwide distributor and manufacturer, purchased the controlling interest of the Ransbottom company in 1922.

Proper Fire Protection Came With New Station

⁵ The Times Recorder, Zanesville, Ohio, May 16, 1976, pg. 41.