



Henry Church
Enslaved by J.P. Church
Served Joshua P. Church, 48 TN Infantry

1842 June 20: Born in Williamson County, Tennessee. Believed to be owned by Robert Church.

1850 The U.S. Federal Census-Slave Schedule enumerated in Maury County, TN showed Robert Church owned eleven slaves. Listed, fitting Henry's description, was a 9 year old and 7 year old black male.

<i>Robert Church</i>	1	110	♂	13	
	1	23	♂	13	
	1	20	♀	13	
	1	18	♂	13	
	1	18	♂	13	
	1	14	♂	13	
	1	13	♂	13	
	1	12	♂	13	
	1	9	♀	13	
	1	7	♂	13	
	1	5	♀	13	

1860 July 21: The U.S. Federal Census-Slave Schedule enumerated in Maury County, TN showed Robert Church owned nineteen slaves. Listed were two 18 year old black males fitting Henry's description.

23	Roll Church	1	30 m B
24		1	27 m B
25		1	25 f B
26		1	20 f B
27		1	18 f B
28		1	18 m B
29		1	18 m B
30		1	15 m B
31		1	12 f B
32		1	10 f B
33		1	10 m B
34		1	5 m B
35		1	6 f B
36		1	4 m B
37		1	4 f B
38		1	2 f B
39		1	2 f B
40		1	1 m B
41		1	1 f B

1861 December 17: Conscripted as a body servant into 48 TN, Co. K, under Joshua P. Church in Nashville, TN.

Witness Account: J.P. Church

“I was well acquainted with Henry Church ‘col.’ He went out in the service with me early in the war. I was in company K 48 Tennessee regiment. Henry Church remained with the army until it closed and was with the old company when it surrendered at Greensboro, South Carolina. He did valuable service for the soldiers in the company. He was ready and willing to do anything that he was called on to do. He was with the company on Hoods campaign in Tennessee, and up to the battle of Nashville. I was wounded at Nashville and captured at Franklin. Henry Church ‘col’ went out with the army and remained with it till the surrender and he did valuable service for all the soldiers in the company and regiment. He was a general servant often cooking for the soldiers and waiting on them in a great many ways. He did every thing that a soldier did except in the line of battle and when a battle was on hand he would be near and wait on the wounded...”

“On one occasion during the time we were around and near Atlanta Ga, I sent him in Tennessee to the home of our boys...he made his way through the Federals and remained some little time around home and came back to us and brought a great many things clothing and letters for all the boys. He had several narrow escapes but always came back. His service was of benefit to the army almost as valuable as any one who served in the rank.”¹

Witness Account: W.W. Courtney

“Henry Church was at Ft. Donelson Feby 1862, at the [?] he [?] with Ben Church and went with Capt. Perkins Co. till Capt. Church was exchanged. When he went to the 48th again at Vicksburg and stayed with Capt. Church till after the Battle of Nashville where Capt Church lost his leg in[Col Gen Thompsons waves]. Henry brought him back home and then went on South with Hood and was with the Regiment at the surrender. We have always regarded Henry Church as one of us. He has always voted the

¹ J.P. Church accounts taken from 1892 pension application.

Democratic ticket and we have for years made him a porter in the legislature as a reward for his service.”²

- 1864 November 30: Henry was present during the Battle of Franklin serving the 48th TN
- December 15: Captain J. P. Church fought and was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Nashville, TN resulting in an amputation. He returned to Franklin after the battle and was captured on December 17. Henry continued on with the regiment despite his owner being gone.
- 1865 May 1: Men of the 48 TN Infantry were paroled in Greensboro, NC. According to Henry’s pension records, he was with the regiment until the close of the war.
- 1869 March 5: Married Annie Carson in Williamson County, TN.
- 1870 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Maury County, TN showed Henry lived with Columbus Church. His occupation was listed as farm laborer.
- 1880 June 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN showed Henry lived with his wife and two children, America, 5, Mary, 2. His occupation was listed as carpenter.
- 1892 November 1: Henry first applied for a soldier’s pension and was rejected. The McEwen Bivouac of Franklin voted to refer Henry for a pension, which was included in his application. But he was still rejected. Black men were not given pensions for their service as slaves during the war until 1921.
- 1900 June 2: The United States Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN showed Henry lived with his wife and six children. His occupation was not listed.
- 1910 April 16: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN showed Henry lived with his wife and four children, Andrew Patton, roomer, and grandson Andrew Patton, 10 months. His occupation was listed as a carpenter.
- 1920 June 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Williamson County, TN showed Henry lived with his wife and daughter, Millie. His occupation was not listed. His wife, Annie was a cook in a private home.
- 1921 June 21: Henry applied for a Colored Man’s Pension Application. This time his pension was approved.

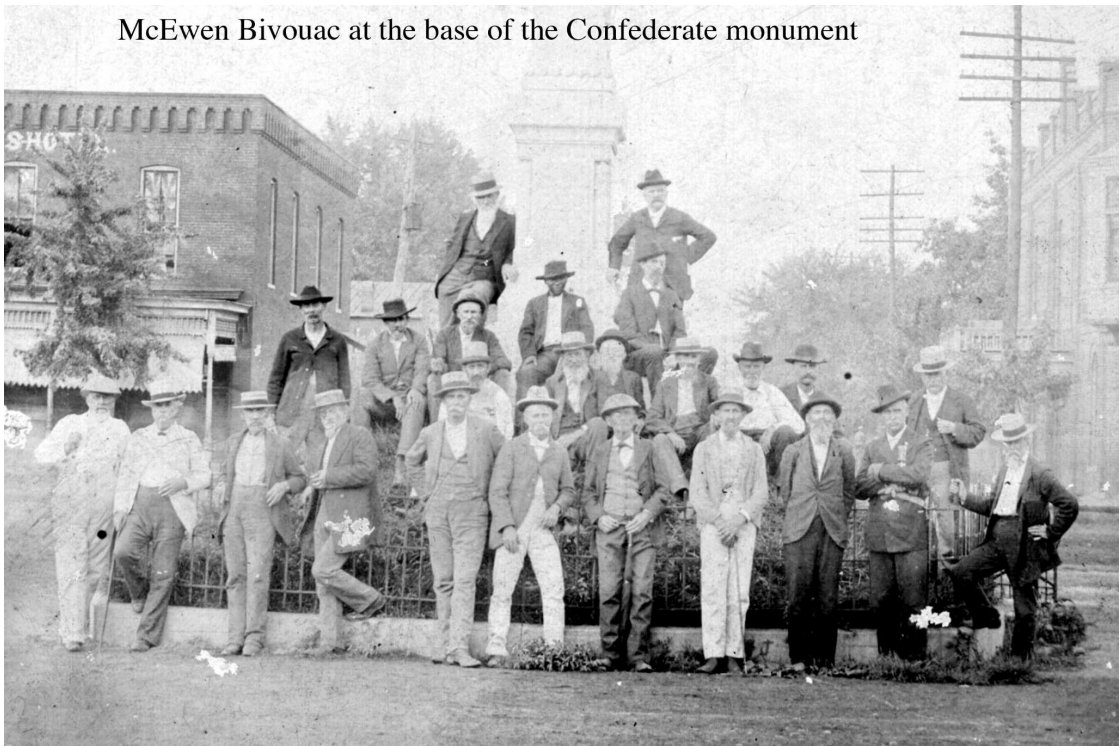
² W.W. Courtney account taken from 1921 pension application.

2 July 12. 21
 No. *19* ACCEPTED
 STATE OF TENNESSEE
 Colored Man's Application for Pension
Henry Church
 Co. *48 Tenn Inf* Rgt.
Booths
 Filed *June 21. 21*
 Allowed _____

3

1927 December 20: Died from apoplexy in Franklin. Buried in Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery in Williamson County, TN.

McEwen Bivouac at the base of the Confederate monument



4

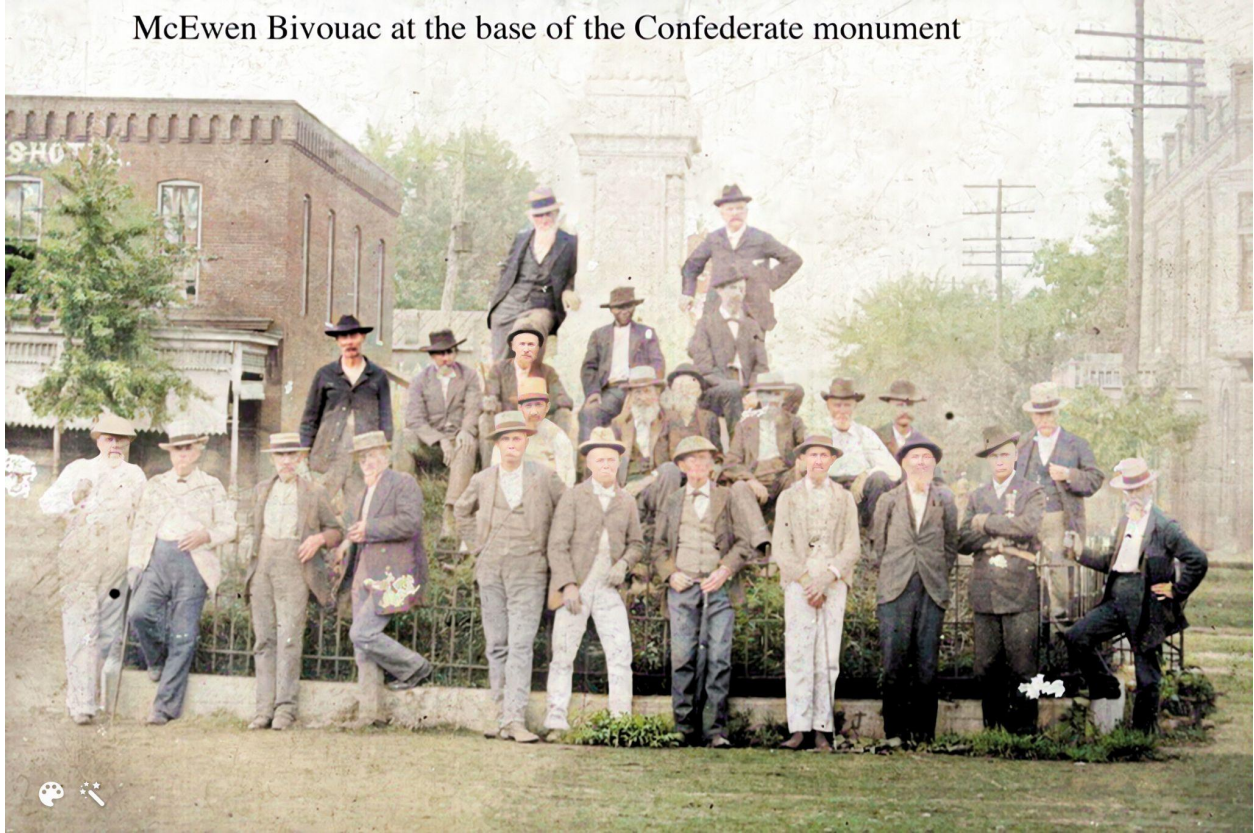
³ Church, Henry, Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications (accessed familysearch.org)

⁴ Williamson County Historical Society Flickr page

Local Confederate veterans banded together in a bivouac named for a fallen hero, Col. John L. McEwen. 1st row: James Nichols, Col. N.N. Cox, Charlie Begbie, George Nichols, Franklin White, Dutch Crunk, L.C. Carothers, Col. Sam Shannon, Dr. John B. White, Dr. James P. Hanner. 2nd row: George Haffner, William Courtney, Bob Boyd, John Atwood, W.J. Petway, E.B. Cayce, A.C. Vaughan, Logan Neely, Capt. Bill Ridley, John M. Gault. 3rd row: Gus Watson, Henry Church, col., Robert J. McFadden, James L. McGann

5

McEwen Bivouac at the base of the Confederate monument



⁵ "Wish you were here" rick warwick