

Joseph S. Keller, Corporal, Co. F, 40th OH Infantry, US

- 1844 January 28: Born to Samuel and Catharine Keller in Ohio.
- 1850 October 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Gibson, Mercer County, OH showed six-year-old Joseph living with his parents and siblings. His father, Samuel, was a farmer.
- 1860 June 4: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Mercer County, OH showed sixteen-year-old Joseph living with his parents and siblings. His father was a farmer.
- 1861 September 25: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. F, 40th OH Infantry.
- 1862 April 19: A letter from another soldier in the 40th OH, documents the movement of the regiment.

Camp Brownlow, KY-April 19, 1862

Although we have seen some of the hardships, and, also, some of the pleasures of a soldier's life, we are still willing to undergo other hardships for the integrity of our country, in this, the hour of her calamity.

After leaving the State of Ohio we came to Paris, KY., by rail; from thence to Paintville, a distance of 120 miles, we came on foot, over some of the worst roads I ever saw. We arrived in Paintville on the 8th of January, where we were cordially welcomed by the 42nd Ohio Regiment, which arrived here on the day before, by the way of Sandy river. On the 9th, a detachment from the 40th Ohio, 42nd Ohio, and 14th Ky. Regiments were on the way again, over the everlasting hills, in search of Gen. Marshall, whom we found near Prestonburg, 12 miles from Paintville.

On the 10th of January, one o'clock, we made an attack upon him. After fighting hard for three hours, we were ordered to retire for the night, during which the rebels retreated, leaving us in complete possession of the field.--There were of the rebels killed and wounded about 150. We had about 20 killed and wounded.

On the 12th we retired to Prestonburg, and by the 13th we were all back to Paintville, where we remained some time; but on the 9th of February we went onboard the boars for Pikesville, about 50 miles from Paint. We arrived here on the 10th, and found that the rebels had gone to Virginia. We have been here now over two months; but sincere have been here we have been amusing ourselves with scouting among the mountains and sending prisoners to Ohio.

We find the rebels, instead of fighting or dying in the "last ditch," willing to leave the first one in a breakneck stile, and take to their heels with remarkable agility. We, therefore, place no confidence in their dingin the "last ditch," so long as they have the use of their limbs. BUT I have written more now than will, in all probability, be interesting. B.F. Williams, Co.K, 40th Ohio Reg't

October: Keller's regiment was camped near Gallipolis, OH along the Ohio River and caused some trouble! The 84th IN Infantry, also listed in the following article, fought at the Battle of Franklin.

aves" amongst them. The camp located on the farm of a secesh too well known to admit of a doubt. On the Ohio side of the river we find a camp, in which are the 40th Ohio, 84th Indiana and two companies of Cavalry. It is simple justice to say of the 84th & Cavalry Co.'s, that they were there but for a few days and no complaints have reached us of their misconduct. But of the 40th what shall we say? Compare the appearance of things about the camp with the description of camp Toland. Fences utterly destroyed,—a valuable farm nearly ruined,—property on adjacent farms plundered, not even the poor-house farm escaping the ravages of these lawless men. And this camp, too, located on the farm of a loyal citizen, who is to-day hundreds of dollars poorer by the visit of the 40th regiment. We ask the question: why is this difference found in the two camps? It is sufficiently answered by stating that Col. Lightburn commands the first and Col. Creanor the second.

¹ Pomeroy Weekly Telegraph, Pomeroy, OH, Friday, 2 May 1862, pg. 1 (accessed newspapers.com)

² Gallipolis Journal, Gallipolis, OH, Thursday, 16 Oct 1862, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

1864 May 28: Wounded at Dallas, GA.

November 30: Keller fought with his regiment at the Battle of Franklin in Whittaker's brigade, Kimball's division.

November & December: Company Muster Roll. Present. (Note at bottom: *First current roll. No muster-in of this company on file. This organization was formed of men transferred from the 40th Reg't Ohio Infantry, per S.F.O. No. 336, Hd. Qrs. Dept. of the Cumb., Dec 8, 1864.*)

December 10: Records conflict, this document indicates Keller enlisted into the 51st OH on January 1st, 1864, but all other documents stated he was transferred from the 40th to the 51st on December 10th, right before the Battle of Nashville.

51. Ohio.
Joseph S. Keller
Co. 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on
Company Descriptive Book
of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.
Age 21 years; height 5 feet 5 3/4 inches.
Complexion fair
Eyes grey; hair auburn
Where born Wayne Ohio
Occupation Farmer.

ENLISTMENT.
When Jan 1, 1864.
Where Shell Mound
By whom A. Cover, term 3 yrs.
Remarks: Reduced to ranks
from Corp. July 1
"64.

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³ Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1762-1984, Record Group 94, (accessed archives.gov)

- 1865 January thru August: Company Muster Rolls. Present.
- July 1: Reduced to ranks from Corporal.
- September: Listed on Regimental Return as "Absent on detached duty."
- October 3: Mustered out of the U.S. Army in Victoria, TX.
- 1866 August 9: Married Lucinda Mott in Mercer County, OH.
- 1870 August 10: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Jefferson, Ringgold, IA showed Joseph, a farmer, and Lucinda living with their one-year-old son Charles.
- ***Lucinda gave birth to another son, John, in December of 1870. Between 1871 and 1874, Keller and wife Lucinda were divorced. She returned to Ohio and Rev. W. L. Lundy in 1874.***
- 1875 Married Hester Ann Mitchell.
- 1878 January 28: Keller applied for and received a pension for his military service.
- 1880 June 25: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Douglas, IL showed Joseph, a farmer, and Hester, living with their two young children: Melvin and Hester. His sons from his first marriage are not living with the family, nor are they living with their mother Lucinda and her new husband.
- 1900 June 21: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Coles County, IL showed Joseph, a farmer, and Hester living with their five children.
- 1910 April 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Johnson, Clark County, IL showed Joseph, a farmer, and Hester living with their daughter, Ruth, and a three-year-old grandson.
- 1920 January 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Casey, Clark County, IL showed a retired Joseph living with his wife, Hester.

1924 August 24: Joseph S. Keller died. He was buried in Washington St. Cemetery in Illinois.



September 18: Hester applied for and was received a pension for her husband's military service.

⁴ [findagrave.com/user/Joyce](https://www.findagrave.com/user/Joyce)