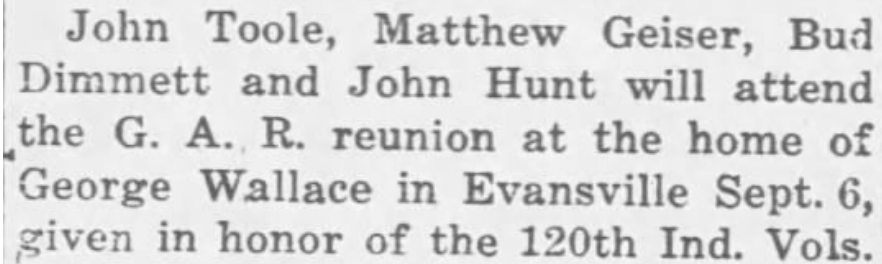


Matthew Geiser, Private, Co. F, 120 IN Infantry, US

- 1841 March 6: Born, Matthaues Geiser, to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Geiser in Baiersbronn, Germany.
- 1853 December: Listed on a German Emigration list from Wurttemberg. Destination is listed as North America.
- 1863 December 18: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. F, 120 IN Infantry the next month.
- 1864 November 30: Wounded at the Battle of Franklin.
- 1866 January 8: Mustered out of the U.S. Army.
- 1884 August 18: Geiser applied for and was granted a military pension for his service during the Civil War.
- 1887 From this year on, Geiser was active in his local GAR chapter. In later years he served as an officer.
- 1890 June: The U.S. Census Veterans Schedule enumerated in Otter Tail County, MN listed Matthew Geiser. Under "disability incurred," Geiser stated he was shot in the right elbow.
- 1900 June 7: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wadena, Wadena County, MN showed a widowed Matthew, a farmer, boarding with Kneeladd family.
- 1903 June 11: Married Amanda Adams in Wadena County, MN.
- 1905 Minnesota Census enumerated in Wadena County, showed Matthew and Mandy as farmers.
- 1910 April 15: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wadena County, MN showed Matthew, a farmer, and his new wife Amanda. The census states the marriage was a second marriage for Matthew and a third marriage for Amanda.
- 1920 January 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Warrick County, IN showed

an again widowed Matthew boarding with Mr. and Mrs. John Stephens. (His wife was actually not deceased...she did not die until 1939 in Minnesota)

1922 Reunion of 120 IN Infantry.



John Toole, Matthew Geiser, Bud Dimmett and John Hunt will attend the G. A. R. reunion at the home of George Wallace in Evansville Sept. 6, given in honor of the 120th Ind. Vols.

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1923 Celebrated his birthday with great fanfare!

MATTHEW GEISER CELEBRATES

Nearly fifty guests enjoyed the hospitality of Matthew Geiser, a civil war veteran, Tuesday when he celebrated his 82 birthday with a noon day dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stephens on South Second Street. A profusion of American flags decorated the dining room and a birthday cake containing 82 candles centered the table where the many guests did justice to a most elaborate dinner.

The G. A. R.'s present were John Toole, O. L. Dimmett, Jim Tweedy and Wm. I. Kelley of this city. John McAdams of Rockport, Matthew Wright and P. H. Miller of Chandler, George Wallace, Eph Rowe, G. T. York, H. H. Williams of Evansville and Lenn Emmerson of Oakland City. Other out-of-town guests were the host's three neices, Mrs. Sophia Willis and Mrs. Mary Deissler of Evansville and Mrs. Caroline Bradley of Mt. Vernon also Mrs. Nellie Cooper, Mrs. J. W. Perigo and Mrs. Robert Welty of Evansville. It was an enjoyable affair and Mr. Geiser did himself proud as host.

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¹ The Boonville Standard, Boonville, IN, Friday, 25 Aug 1922, pg. 4

² The Boonville Standard, Boonville, In, Friday, 09 Mar 1923, pg. 5

1924 Attended memorial service at a local Methodist Episcopal church for Civil War and WWI veterans. At 83-years-old, Geiser was one of the oldest soldiers present.

UNCLE MATT IS PROUD OF THEM

LOCAL G. A. R. VETERAN HAS NUMEROUS MEDALS GOTTEN AT CONVENTIONS

By Ernest W. Owen

Matthew Geiser, 83, and a veteran of the Civil war, says that his greatest pleasure in life is to attend a state or a national reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic. He spends most of his money that way, and has never regretted one penny that has gone for this purpose.

"Uncle Matt," as he is lovingly called, makes Boonville his home. His immediate family are all dead, but he is great-grand-uncle to forty-four nieces and nephews; there is only one niece of the first generation living, however.

This old soldier has badges and medals from every reunion and convention that he ever attended. He has them sewn to a large banner, and with a strap attached he proudly wears it when he attends a convention or a meeting of the G. A. R.

Uncle Matt has attended every state reunion and has fifty-eight badges and ribbons to prove this; he has been to twelve National encampments, and he has the badges and medals for this. Then there were two confederate reunions that the old veteran attended. One of these was at Franklin, Tenn., and at this reunion he met the confederate soldier who shot him when he was wounded in the battle of Franklin during the trying days of 1864. The reminiscences of the reunion, and the talking over the war with this old confederate bring fond memories to "Uncle Matt." Of course, I forgave him," said Geiser. "We were the best of friends, and had our pictures taken together."

Matthew Geiser enlisted in the Civil war at Evansville when he was twenty years old. This was in 1861 and he served in Company F, 120 Indiana volunteers under General Schofield. He received a slight wound at the battle of Franklin.

After the war was over Geiser went to Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and lived there for forty years; but for the last twenty years he has made southern Indiana his home. He spends most of his time between Boonville and Evansville.

He has served on the general staff of the Grand Army of the Republic for six times, and the old veteran proudly tells of the first meeting of the Grand Army at Decatur, Illinois. This was in 1866. He proudly recalls pleasant memories of his friendship with General Logan and other leaders of the Grand Army.

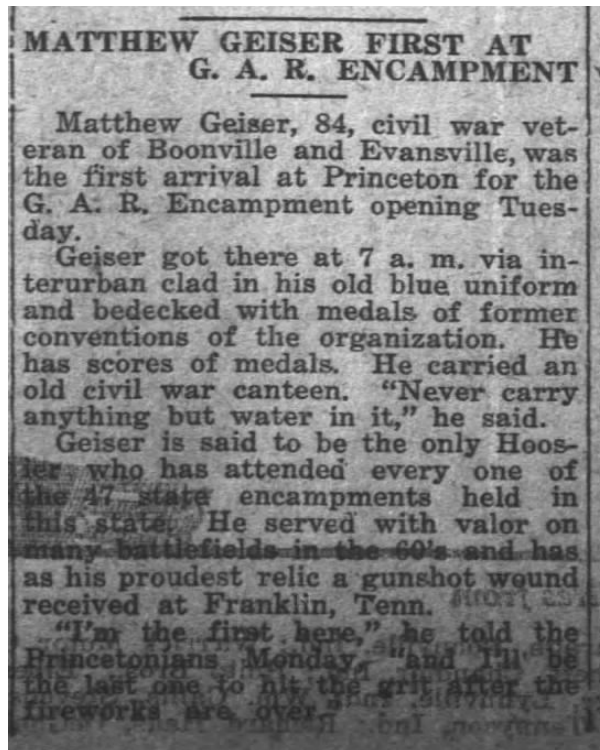
One of the bitter disappointments of Uncle Matt was that he did not get to go with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea. He was in the march across Georgia but at Atlanta he was sent back to Tennessee. For the last ten years he has done valuable work in the district recruiting office.

Uncle Matt is always seen with three medals. One is the first Grand Army Medal bearing the date 1866. Then the second one is a Grand Army medal with General Logan's features on it with the date 1868. The third one is his regiment badge bearing the inscription: "Co. F, 120 Ind. Vol. Inf."

Despite his eighty-three years of age Uncle Matt is still active in Grand Army work, and also takes a lively interest in the work of the Woman's Relief Corp. He assisted in the organization of the corps in Boonville.

³ The Boonville Enquirer, Friday, 30 May 1924, pg. 4

1925



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1928 January 5: Died in Booneville, IN. He was buried at Locust Hill Cemetery in Evansville, IN.



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⁴ The Boonville Standard, Voonville, IN, Friday, 12 Jun 1925, pg. 1

⁵ Photo source/findagrave.com/user/EmmaSue

MATTHEW GEISER PASSES

Matthew Geiser, 87, civil war veteran and one of the best known men in Boonville, died at his home at the Stevens hotel on South Second street on Thursday night, January 5th, at 7 o'clock, following a short illness. He had been in failing health for the past year or so.

Mr. Geiser served in Company F, 120th Indiana Volunteers and had a fine record in the war of the rebellion.

Born in Germany in 1841, Mr. Geiser came to Evansville with his family in 1853. All of his immediate family preceded him in death.

"Uncle Matt," as he was known, was a regular attendant at the encampments of the G. A. R., missing only one since its organization. Illness prevented him from attending one held in Boston, several years ago. In late years Mr. Geiser wore his cap and uniform with his medals pinned across his breast.

The body was taken to Billups and Werry's undertaking establishment where it was prepared for burial. The body then was removed Sunday to the home of Mrs. Mary Deissler at 11 South Ninth street, Evansville, a niece of Mr. Geiser. The funeral services were held from this number Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, being in charge of Farragut Post, Grand Army of the Republic. Burial was in Locust Hill cemetery. Peace to the ashes of this noble and brave soldier.

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⁶ The Boonville Enquirer, Boonville, IN, Friday, 13 Jan 1928, pg. 2