

Richard Severns, Corporal, Co. E, 118 OH Infantry, U.S.

- 1844 March 15: Richard Severns was born in Shelby County, OH. He was the son of Joseph and Catherine Duffy Severns.
- 1850 October 23: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Orange, Shelby County, OH showed six-year-old Richard living with his parents and siblings. His father, Joseph, was a farmer.
- 1852 *“Richard Severns was eight years old when his parents came to Union township and settled in what was practically the forest. He remained on the farm assisting in the work until 1862”*¹
- 1860 June 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Union, Mercer County, OH showed sixteen-year-old Richard living with his parents, brothers and seventy-year-old grandmother. His father, he and his brothers were listed as farmers.
- 1861 September 10: Severn’s brother, Francis, enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. A 46th OH Infantry.
- 1862 April 22: Severn’s brother, Francis, died of disease on the U.S. Hospital ship, the Monarch.

August 20: Severn enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. E, 118th OH Infantry.

“The regiment was attached to the Second Brigade, Second Division, 23rd Army Corps, and was mustered in at Camp Lima. His service was in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama and at the time of the closing of the war he was in North Carolina. He participated in many battles, including Nashville, Franklin and Dalton and went through the Atlanta campaign. He vividly recalls the battle of Franklin, one of the notable ones of the war. For four months he was never out of the sound of cannonading. He was once struck with a spent ball and on one occasion a bullet struck the rim of his hat. On one occasion he was in a detail of 20 skirmishers of whom 13 were killed or wounded while on

¹ Scranton, S. S, and Biographical Publishing Company. History of Mercer County, Ohio. And Representative Citizens. Chicago, Ill.: Biographical Pub. Co., 1907. pg.695-696

*this duty. Mr Severns is one of probably 25 survivors of the old regiment, who have earned and enjoyed the admiration and gratitude of their fellow-citizens.”*²

1864 July 1: Promoted to Corporal.

November 30: Severns fought with his regiment at the Battle of Franklin in Kimball’s Division, Kirby’s brigade.

1865 June 24: *“Mr. Severns was honorably discharged at Salisbury, NC. After the Close of the war, Mr. Severns returned to Mercer County.”*³

1869 April 11: Severns married Mary Gross in Mercer County, OH.

1870 August 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Jennings, Van Wert County, OH showed Richard, a farmer, and his new wife Mary living on their own farm.

1873 *“He purchased the farm on which he resides, 30 acres of which had been cleared, and has completed the clearing of all but 10 acres.”*⁴

1878 *“He erected his handsome home and later his substantial barn and has made many improvements which make this one of the attractive homes of Union township. He carries on mixed farming and raises some stock. In addition to a natural, fertility, the farm is also valuable on account of several oil-wells having been developed on it. Mr. Severns is identified with the Democratic Party”*⁵

1880 June 4: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Union, Mercer County, OH showed Richard, a farmer, and Mary living with their daughter Etta and Mary’s father. Their household was surrounded by households of both Richard’s family and Mary’s family.

1886 January 19: Severns married Sarah Anne Mohler in Mercer County, OH.

1900 July 6: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Union, Mercer County, OH showed Richard, a farmer, and his second wife Sarah living with their daughter Edna.

² Scranton, S. S, and Biographical Publishing Company. History of Mercer County, Ohio, And Representative Citizens. Chicago, Ill.: Biographical Pub. Co., 1907. pg.695-696

³ ditto

⁴ ditto

⁵ditto

- 1910 April 20: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Union, Mercer County, OH showed Richard, a farmer, and Sarah living with their daughter Edna.
- 1920 February 28: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Union, Mercer County, OH showed a retired Richard and Anna [Sarah Anne] living on their own.
- 1921 April 5: Richard Severns died and was buried at Tomlinson Cemetery in Mercer County, OH.



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⁶ findagrave.com