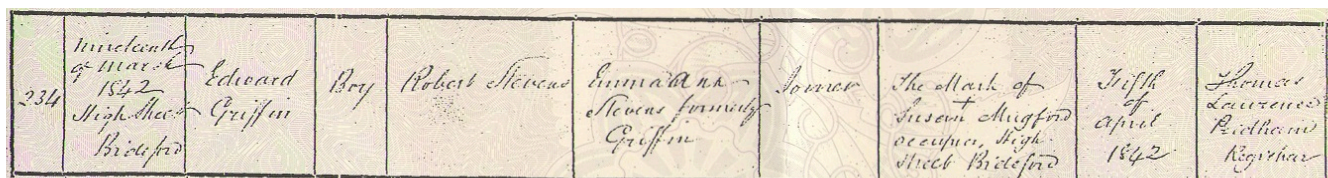


## Edward G. Stevens, Corporal, Co. K, 72nd IL Infantry, US

1842 March 19: Edward Griffin Stevens was born in the northern part of Devon, England to Robert and Emma Stevens.



1850 July 17: The U.S. Federal Census taken in Machias, Washington County, Maine showed 8-year-old Edward living with his parents and siblings. His father, Robert, was a carpenter.

1859 August 21: Edward's father, Robert, died. Leaving behind his mother, Emma, to care for seven children.

1860 July 17: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Galesburg, Knox County, IL showed Edward working as a druggist.

1862 July 31: Edward enlisted in the U.S. Army. He mustered into Co. K, 72nd Illinois as a private.

Name	<b>Edward G Stevens</b>
Rank	Corporal
Military Age	21
Service Entry Age	22
Muster In Age	22
Muster Out Age	25
Birth Date	abt 1840
Birth Place	Biddiford, England
Height	5' 5
Hair	Dark
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Light

August 2: Edward's brother, Robert, enlisted in the United States Army, Co. E, 124th Illinois Infantry as a corporal.

\*Edward's brother, William, enlisted in the United States Army, Co. H, 52nd Illinois Infantry as a private.

1863 February 18: Edward wrote a letter home to his mother, Emma, about his brother Robert passing away.

*Head Quarters 72nd Regt. Ill. Vol.*

*Memphis Tenn. Feb. 18th '63*

*Dear Mother,*

*I must send you sorry, sorry news. Robert is dead. He died yesterday morning at the Adams Hospital. It makes me feel worse to think that I was not there at the time of his death. The last time I saw him was some twelve days ago. He was then much better.*

*We then was removed some four miles from town, and as I was not well enough to go and see him for some days, I did not see him, but heard from him almost every day. And when I did feel well enough to go to town, our Regt. was ordered to go on an expedition and I had to go. We got home this noon and as soon as I got home I was told of his death. I started right off to his Regt. and found that he had been buried. I will find out the place tomorrow and if it is your wish I will try and send him home. His Captain said he intended doing so, but he was going away the next day and could not attend to it. Mr. Howland was with him at the time of his death. He spoke of you all. His (illegible) will be sent to you in a day or so. All he had goes to you. You had better put the amount of pay due him from the U.S. in some persons hands for collection. It may be that the Captain will promise to do it but you cannot depend on them, as they have so many such cases to attend to that they are liable to forget it. I cannot tell exactly when I will get my pay.*

*We are going to Vicksburg soon, perhaps next week. As it is time to go to bed I must close. Give my love to all.*

*Your Affectionate Son*

*Edward*

1864 November 30: Edward fought with the 72nd Illinois at the Battle of Franklin. His regiment was positioned at the center of the line on Fountain Branch Carter's property, specifically in the Carter garden.

December 2: Edward wrote home to his mother, Emma, several times speaking about the Battle of Franklin.

*Dec. 2nd We have fell back as far as Nashville with the enemy close upon us. We had a desperate fight at Franklin, eighteen miles from here. Our Regt. loss is heavy. The most I regret is we lost our Battle Flag, but honorably, as we was the only Regt that stood our ground. We are expecting attack every moment so I must stop. I'm all safe as yet. Will give you a more minute description of the battle when I write again.*

*Love to all  
Your Affect. Son  
Edward*

December 10: Edward wrote home again to his mother, Emma, in Illinois about Franklin.

*The Battle of Franklin was almost enough to suit me. Our Regiments loss is one hundred and fifty-eight killed and wounded. I would like to give you the particulars of the fight, but it is too cold. It is as much as I can do to hold my pencil my fingers are so cold. There is some cannonading on our left this morning. Well I must stop.*

*Love to all  
Your Affectionate  
Son Edward*

December 23: writing home to his mother, Emma, about how he disliked the new recruits during the Battle of Franklin.

*There is one thing I like about this command. They are all old troops. I never want to get into a fight with new troops again as there is more danger from them than from the enemy. We had a fair trial of that at Franklin. We were then with the 23rd corp in which is a number of conscripts and raw recruits. Well as it is time to get supper and I'm cooktonight I must close.*

*Give my love to all. Emmas or your letters have not been received yet.*

*Your Affectionate Son  
Edward<sup>1</sup>*

1865 August 7: Edward mustered out of the U.S. Army.

1869 August 10: Married Maggie Burns in Livingston, IL.

1870 August 4: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Pontiac, Livingston County, IL showed Edward, a painter, living with his wife, Maggie.

\*\*\*According to the next newspaper articles, Steve left or divorced his wife within the next couple years.

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<sup>1</sup> All letters from the collection of <http://stevenscivilwar.blogspot.com>.

## HAS TWO LIVING HUSBANDS.

### The First One Returns After an Absence of Sixteen Years.

AURORA, Ills., May 28.—Sixteen years ago E. G. Stevens left his wife and relatives one night, and nothing more was ever heard of him. He was addicted to intemperance, and having about him a good sum of money at the time it was thought that possibly he had been foully dealt with, or when under the influence of liquor had ended his life. His wife was a daughter of D. C. Pratt, one of the oldest photographers in this city, and until about two years ago she lived with her father. She mourned his loss for sixteen years, but as his mother, brothers, sisters, nor herself, who all reside here, had never heard aught of him, she as well as the other relatives gave him up as dead, and the wife married Mr. A. Billing, of this city, in November, 1885. Thursday evening Mr. Stevens walked into Mr. Pratt's photograph gallery as hale and hearty as a man could be. He gave no reason for his continued absence or silence, saying that he had spent the time in Iowa and California and that he was now a resident of Muscatine, Iowa. He desired to see his former wife, but that was denied him, as he had lived so many years without caring to.

Mr. E. G. Stevens came into the DAILY EXPRESS office yesterday and says the EXPRESS was misinformed about his domestic affairs. He says that his former wife left him and went to Iowa, two years before he left Illinois; that he went there and got a divorce from her, ten or twelve years ago; that he married another woman, nine years ago, by whom he has several children; that he came to Aurora to see his aged mother, and not to see the former Mrs. Stevens, and that he is no Enoch Arden at all. As a divorce was granted, both parties had a perfect right to marry again, and no harm was done.

- 1876 March 9: Married Josephine Neavitt in Muscatine, IA.
- 1880 June 12: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilton, Muscatine County, IA showed Edward living with his wife and daughter.
- 1910 April 16: THE U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Wilton, Muscatine County, IA showed Edward, a painter of house signs, and Josephine living with their children.
- 1917 February 12: Edward died and was buried in Wilton, IA.

<sup>2</sup> The Evansville Journal, Evansville, IN, Sun, 29 May 1887, pg. 6 (accessed newspapers.com)

<sup>3</sup>



4

**DEATH SUMMONS  
EDW. G. STEVENS  
OF WILTON, IOWA**

Wilton, Ia., Feb. 13.—(Special.)—  
At 11 o'clock Monday night occurred  
the death of Edward G. Stevens at the  
age of 75 years. He had been in de-  
clining health for some time.

Early in life Mr. Stevens learned  
the druggist profession but discon-  
tinued it and followed the trade of  
painter. He was well and favorably  
known.

He was born in England and came  
to the United States when a mere  
child. He lived first on Long Island,  
then in Nova Scotia and later came  
to Illinois where at the outbreak of  
the civil war he enlisted in Co. K,  
Twenty-seventh Illinois.

Surviving are the wife and three  
children. They are Owen Stevens of  
Lake City, Iowa, W. J. Stevens of  
Bridgeport, Conn., and Mrs. J. Silber-  
horn of Maquoketa.

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<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com

<sup>5</sup> Quad-City Times, Davenport, IA, Tue, 13 Feb 1917, pg. 4 (accessed newspapers.com)

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

ORIGINAL CW

NAME <i>Edward G.</i>		RANK <i>Priv</i>	COMPANY <i>K</i>	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel <i>72 Ill. Inf</i>	DATE OF DEATH <i>2-12-1917</i>
If World War veteran—			Located in or near—		
Division	State	Emblem	NAME OF CEMETERY	CITY	STATE
		Christian Hebrew None	<i>Oakdale</i>	<i>Wilton Jct</i>	<i>IN.</i>
TO BE SHIPPED TO <i>American Legion</i> (Name of consignee)			PERMANENT ADDRESS " " "		
at <i>Wilton</i>			DATE <i>3-1-35</i>		
<i>Mus. Co.</i> (Give town, county, and State)			I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave.		
DO NOT WRITE HERE			<i>American Legion</i>		
Verified <i>MAR 5 1935</i>	Address <i>Wilton Jct IN</i>		Date <i>3-1-35</i>		
Ordered <i>TATE, GEORGIA MAR 18 1935</i>	This application is for the UNMARKED* grave of a <i>Civil War vet.</i>		It is understood the stone		
From	be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.		916417 <i>P. J. Bridges Post Adp</i> Applicant.		
Shipped <i>4-1-35</i>	*State whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc.		3-8854		

<sup>6</sup> U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985 (accessed ancestry.com)