

DANIEL NEFF



Daniel was born on November 24, 1832, in Hamilton County, Ohio. We know this date from his military records and his headstone. Daniel is the 2nd of 10 children born to Charles Neff and Catherine Jane Dewitt. The parents of Daniel were hard to determine as his father died in 1846, his mother remarried and there were no census records where he was listed with his family. Through process of elimination of Neff families in Ohio with a professional genealogist and some guardianship records along with some searching on Daniel's siblings we were able to conclusively determine that Charles and Catherine were the parents of Daniel. This research report is available to share if needed.

Daniel would be a tick mark in the 1840 census with his family in Green, Hamilton, Ohio. There is then no place he has been identified in the 1850 Federal census.

In the 1860 census we believe Daniel is in Eden, LaSalle, IL living with the Isaac Sprague family as a Farm Laborer. This Daniel Neff is the right age, right birth location and Daniel's obituary states that he was in Hennepin, IL before enlisting in the Civil War. Hennepin is close to LaSalle County, so these locations are believable. His pension documents would mirror that as they state that for three years prior to enlistment in the military he resided at Logan, Dearborn County, IN in the winters, and Palatine, Putnam County, IL during the summers. Present day La Salle County and Putnam County border each other.

We know from Daniel's Grand Army of the Republic Record for Civil War Veterans Buried in Nebraska that he enlisted in Company F, 4th Illinois Cavalry as a private on Sept 17, 1861. From his service records we learn that he was transferred to Company F in November of 1861. His service papers list that he was taken ill either near Ft Donelson, Ft Henry or Shiloh, TN. Each location is listed once. We do know that at Pittsburg Landing n about April of 1862 he was absent sick on the hospital steamer, was then sent to St Louis and later discharged at Quincy, IL. I don't believe he went back to battle after being taken sick for a prolonged time and an accompanying furlough. His discharge papers state that he was discharged for disease of the liver and spleen and

An official record for the marriage of Daniel Neff and Sarah Rector hasn't been found in the Ohio Records, but their obituaries state that they were married on November 25, 1863, in Harrison City, Ohio. Daniel's pension records state that there was a fire in the courthouse

and that they were married in Cincinnati, OH and utilizes one of Daniel's brothers as a reference.

Daniel's pension document states that they lived in Logan, Dearborn County, IN from the date of his discharge until March of 1869.

In the 1870 Federal Census Daniel and Sarah are listed in Nebraska, Livingston, IL. Daniel is listed as a Farmer with \$200 of personal estate. This matches his pension document that states they were in Livingston County, IL until April of 1872.

The 1880 Federal Census shows Daniel and Sarah in Groveland, LaSalle, Illinois. Livingston and LaSalle counties share a border and while the family may be in a slightly different place, they haven't gone too far. Daniel lists himself as a Laborer and the box for "sick" is selected. The description in the census considers a person sick if on the day of the enumerator's visit the person was sick or temporarily disabled enough to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties. All of the children are listed as being in school.

Daniel's obituary states that they came to Perkins County, Nebraska in 1886. The obituary states that they took up a homestead, but homestead land records do not show any entries for a Daniel Neff. I have not yet done specific land record research in Perkins County to determine the exact location of Daniel's land. They may have taken up a cancelled homestead claim or it's possible they used the term homestead in the obituary as a generic term. Additional land record searching may answer the question.

The 1890 Veterans Schedule also shows Daniel in Madrid, Perkins, Nebraska and is another source for his enlistment and discharge dates as well as his company of service.

In the 1900 Federal Census Daniel is listed in District 0142, Madrid, Perkins, Nebraska. He and Sarah list that they have been married for 36 years and that they have 11 children with 8 currently living. Daniel is listed as a farmer and that he owns his farm. All of the children who are of school age are listed as attending school.

Daniel died on July 10, 1908, as recorded in his military records and at his grave. His obituary stated that he had been in "very poor health since the war but had much better health of recent years until he was taken sick Monday, June 19, 1908, since which time he had been very sick until he passed peacefully away at 5 AM July 10, 1908". His service record lists several conditions that must have made things miserable for Daniel post war. The records at one point lists all of these things - disease of liver and spleen, dyspepsia, piles, rheumatism, heart disease, disease of abdominal viscera and debility. It also states that from the time of his discharge to the time of his death he would occasionally be incapable of work for periods at a time and was at best capable of half work. No official death record has been found in the State of Nebraska even though death registrations began in 1904.

Daniel is buried in the Madrid, Nebraska cemetery.

Daniel and Sarah had the following 11 children and thanks to his pension document we have middle names for most of the children. All three of the children who died young are listed in the Neff cemetery plot in Madrid, NE along with their birth and death dates.

- **Fannie May Neff (1862 - 1940)**
- **Jane Elizabeth Neff (1865 - 1953)**
- **Mary Almeda Neff (1868 -)**
- **Samuel A Neff (1869 - 1870)**
- **Joseph Enoch Neff (1871 - 1958)**
- **Daniel Benjamin Neff (1847 - 1942)**
- **Susan Lillian Neff (1877 - 1957)**
- **Charles H Neff (1879 - 1879)**
- **William Madison Neff (1881 - 1951)**
- **Charles Oren Neff (1884 - 1958)**
- **John W Neff (1886 - 1887)**

SARAH ELIZABETH RECTOR



Sarah was born on November 20, 1842 in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio as recorded on her death certificate, and her grave. Proving the parents of Sarah required some research as her obituary stated that both of her parents died when she was four years old and her parents names were not listed on her death certificate. Thanks to some records from Clark County, Ohio we see that James Rector who died in 1847 left a widow, Susanah and four children under the age of 10. There is also a record for a marriage of James Rector and Susannah Blackwell that prove to us that Sarah is one of four children born to James Rector and Susannah Blackwell.

Sarah is listed in the 1850 Federal Census in the household of Rachel Dawson in Miller, Dearborn, Indiana, whom we have determined to be Sarah's Maternal Grandmother. In this census Sarah and her brothers Benjamin and Henry are with Rachel and are in school. The remaining brother, James, is not listed and he may have died as an infant.

Sarah has not been identified in the 1860 Federal Census. Her grandmother died in 1856 and Sarah is not listed in her grandmother's will, and while she would have been roughly 18, it is currently undetermined where Sarah was between her grandmother's passing and her marriage to Daniel.

From 1863 through 1908 Sarah's information is listed with Daniel.

In the 1910 Federal Census Sarah is enumerated in District 0171, Madrid, Perkins, Nebraska. She is the widowed head of household and reports that she lives on her own income and does not list an occupation. She lists that she owns her own home and again reports that she has had 11 children with 8 living.

In the 1920 Federal Census Sarah is enumerated in District 0175, Madrid, Perkins, Nebraska. She lists no occupation and is living alone as head of household.

In the 1930 Federal Census Sarah is listed in District 0006, Liberty, Perkins, Nebraska. In this census she is listed as Lizze, and is living with her daughter Susan and her family.

Sarah died on November 14, 1933 in Madrid, Nebraska as reported on her death certificate and her grave. Sarah is buried in the Grant, Nebraska cemetery.

Sarah's obituary states that she was a member of the Methodist Church and that she was "a faithful reader of the Bible and other books that emphasized God's word". The obituary also states that she had been in poor health the last five years but was always patient and loving.