

BENTON COUNTY

Benjamin Summers Martin

Co B, 15th Missouri Cavalry

Benjamin was born 13 Nov 1845, Lafayette County, MO, the son of William H & Sarah Martin.

On 2 May 1864, he enlisted with the Co. D, 15th Missouri Cavalry and was mustered into service 3 Jul 1864 at Springfield, MO. He was mustered out at the latter location on 1 Jul 1865.

The 15th Missouri Cavalry's service recording according to Dyer's Compendium shows:

Scout and patrol duty in District of Southwest Missouri till April, 1865, and in North Missouri till July, 1865. Actions at Mt. Vernon September 30, 1864; Moreau Bottom, Jefferson City, October 7; Booneville October 9-12; Big Blue or State Line October 22. Engagement at the Marmiton, or Battle of Charlot, October 25. Mine Creek, Little Osage River, Marias des Cygnes, October 25. Newtonia October 28. Affair near James Creek April 27, 1865 (Co. "C").

On 14 Sep 1865, he married Sarah Jane Flemming, the daughter of John and Emaline Fleming, in St. Clair Co., MO. Together, they raised the following children:

John W. b. 1866 (MO) Minnie F. b. 1874 (MO) Robert Gray b. 1877 (MO), d. 1972 (OK) Arthur Lee b. 1880 (AR) d. 1977 Arna Clarence b. 1889 (AR) d. 1940 (OK)



Prior to 1880 his family moved to Benton Co., AR, where he spent the remainder of his life. For many years where he participated in various parades. He drove his car in a Veteran's Day parade when he was in his 90's. He was afflicted with deafness and poor eyesight but otherwise in fairly good health in his last years. At last report, his great grandson in Oklahoma has possession of his cavalry sword.

Benjamin Martin passed away on 28 Oct 1946 at 101 years of age, the last soldier of Benton Co. AR. He is buried in Lowell, Arkansas's Oak Grove Cemetery.

Note: Some research indicates he may have been born in Illinois.

Photo & Sources: 1) Roberts, Bobby & Carl

Moneyhon, *Portraits of Conflict: Arkansas,* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1987, pages 213 & 221

2) Findagrave.com