



# Forty Rounds

Volume 1 No. 1

The Newsletter of Logan's Brigade

Winter 2024

Men's Associate to the Woman's Relief Corps

02/24/2024

## News from the Field

### John A. Logan Postage Stamp – Update

In early January of 2024 many of us, including myself, began a letter writing campaign to the “Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee” expressing support for the issuance of a commemorative stamp in 2026 honoring our namesake John A. Logan”. I’m happy to report that I received a response on February 20<sup>th</sup> from Shawn P. Quinn, Manager, Stamp Development of the United States Postal Service. In the letter he writes:

*I am pleased to inform you that this proposal will be submitted for review and consideration before the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee at their next meeting.*

With a bit of luck and perseverance they will authorize the issuance of a Gen. John A. Logan postage stamp in 2026. Many thanks to all Brigade members who mailed in their proposals.

### Story of an Emancipated Slave Woman- 1864

Research began on this hidden story of Maria Hunter and her husband Henry Hunter from an email shared with us by WRC member Cheryl Wilkinson. Cheryl does extensive research on the Parson Brownlow GAR and WRC located in Vidalia, Louisiana.

Maria, whose maiden name was Derry, was a colored woman enslaved on the Hard Bargain Plantation in Tensas Parish Louisiana; born during cotton picking time in 1845, by her recollections. Her future husband, Henry Hunter, was an enslaved colored man on the Rogillio Plantation in the Pine Ridge area of Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi. After Henry’s death in 1909, Maria Hunter applied for a pension (No. 918.225) from the Bureau of Pensions for her service with the 70<sup>th</sup> USC Infantry as a laundress. Transcribed excerpts from her deposition filed on February 9, 1910, that follow are shown in *italics*. They come from her husband’s pension file.

*I lived on the Hard Bargain plantation until my freedom came then I went to the Federal Army at Vidalia and began washing for the soldiers and afterwards did that work when the soldiers moved to Natchez, Mississippi under the Hill and then to the Forks of the Road in Natchez.*

Henry Hunter was 18 years old when he enlisted into the 70<sup>th</sup> USCT on 1 Aug. 1864 in Vidalia, LA., as a private in the infantry. His muster in date was also 1 Aug 1864 at Natchez, MS. Shortly after



# Forty Rounds

his muster in he was promoted to Sargeant on 19 Sep 1864. It was within the 70<sup>th</sup> USC Infantry that he met Maria Derry and they obviously fell in love with each other.

Elsewhere in the file, her sister recalls a very young Maria leaving the plantation with Henry Hunter. As you probably already know the government was particularly concerned about preventing “undeserving” women from receiving federal pensions. In the case of Black women, they were even more prickly. Maria and Henry were smart in that they had an “official” marriage on March 4, 1894, that is documented in Concordia Parish records. She did finally receive her rightful pension and was receiving \$30 a month by the time of her death in 1927. Both Henry and Maria are buried at Natchez National Cemetery in Mississippi.

Included in the pension file of Henry Hunter is a deposition from Charlotte Simmons. Charlotte confirms Maria Hunter’s service as a laundress to Federal troops, but also states she served in the same capacity as Maria Hunter. Charlotte was married to Harry Simmons, who also served in Co. C, 70<sup>th</sup> USCT Infantry.

*I am about 82 years of age, am the widow of Harry Simmons, my P.O. Vidalia LA, my husband was a soldier in the same company as Henry Hunter. I found him in the army in Vidalia in 1864. I was there living with my husband as his wife; we had been married in 1864 by ceremony and after that I and claimant [Maria Hunter] were washerwomen about the camps at Vidalia and Natchez .....*

To date the final resting places of Charlotte and Harry Simmons have not been located yet.

Maria *Derry* Hunter - 1845-1927 { Memorial # 815905 }

Henry Hunter - 1845-1909 { Memorial # 815724 }

## Civil War Nurses Project Highlights our 800<sup>th</sup> Confirmed – February 23, 2024

**Mrs. Harriet “Rees” Colfax Stevens – 4 Jul 1830 to 4 Jul 1912**

**Find-A-Grave Memorial # 88302979 – Oak Grove Cemetery - Rushford, Minnesota**

For more than a year we tried to locate the final resting place of Harriet R. Colfax from our master database of pensioned Civil War Nurses. We have now added Harriet to our virtual cemetery with the help of an associate research contact Michelle Leimer who found her obituary and posted it to her memorial. Michelle does volunteer work at Rockford Historical Society in Rockford, Minnesota and has been very helpful. By identifying her second marriage to George Stevens we were able to connect the dots.

*Transcribed obituary from the “Rushford Star Republican” newspaper, 10 Oct 1912*

***Mrs. Harriet Rees Stevens***

*(By Rev. W. H. Pond)*



# Forty Rounds

*During the silent watches of the night the spirit of one of Rushford's beloved citizens peacefully passed to those realms from whose borne no traveler returns.*

*Mrs. Harriet Rees Stevens passed to her rest on Friday morning, Oct. 4, 1912. She was born on July 4, 1830, in Ashtabula, Ohio. She was married to Richard Colfax, who died in Michigan City, Indiana. In May 1867, she was again married to Mr. Geo. G. Stevens.*

*As a young woman she was ever interested in the welfare of the sick and needy. When the Civil war began she offered her services to her country as a nurse. She was first stationed at Carondelet, Missouri, and then on hospital boats on the Mississippi river. She was present during that terrible struggle at the siege of Vicksburg. She never spared herself. The doctors had to compel her at times to take a rest. She would say, "How can I rest? Look at these suffering people".*

*She was truly a heroine in the strife. Amidst the shot and shrieking shells, the war cry and the groans of the dying, she went on tirelessly and faithfully. Many a noble son, the pride of a mother's heart, whose pillow was smoothed by her gentle and loving hands, smiled his thanks as his spirit passed beyond the "Harbour Bar" to cross the "Tideless Sea"*

*Mrs. Stevens work among the young men and young women of Rushford was for good. She started a Sunday School in one room of her then small house, and when the present beautiful residence was built all were welcome. The little Sunday School grew, and the result was the founding of Emmanuel Parish, with its beautiful stone church, parish house and rectory.*

*In 1877, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens founded a winter home near Jacksonville, Florida. Mrs. Stevens then started a Sunday School for the black children, old white-headed blacks came to learn to read the Bible. From this grew the Industrial School for the blacks. The school has been turned over to the church in Florida. All this was accomplished by her own untiring efforts.*

If you would like to submit an article about your local Brigade work or an interesting story from the Civil War period for publication in the next "40 Rounds" newsletter, send to:

Tim O'Neal at:

lb1826@yahoo.com