

# Five Truman Brothers in the Civil War

By Linda Cunningham Fluharty, Oct. 23, 2019

Three sons of Robert and Sarah (Creighbaum) Truman, residents of Glen Easton, Marshall County, in 1850 and 1860, lost their lives during the Civil War: James, Thomas "Jefferson" Truman, and Robert.

The name of Thomas "Jefferson" Truman is not included on the Veterans' Memorial at the Marshall County Courthouse in Moundsville when it was erected in 2019. However, following efforts by this writer, the name was added in the fall of 2023.

According to family histories, the father's name was actually John Robert, but he was Robert Truman when he married Sarah in Jefferson County, Ohio in 1832. Based on the children's birthplaces at the time of the 1850 Federal Census, they moved to Virginia – Marshall County – about 1840, or so.

## 1850 Marshall County Census

TRUMAN (301)  
Robert...Farmer...\$600...44-M...PA  
Sarah...35-F...PA  
Emily A...17-F...OH  
Eveline...15-M...OH  
James.....12-M...OH  
Robert...11-M...OH  
Jefferson...9-M...VA  
George...2mo.-M...VA

James Truman married Mary Jane Wayt in Marshall County on November 5, 1857. In 1860, James and his family lived next door to his parents and siblings.

Evaline Truman married Jackson Bonar on October 4, 1860 in Marshall County. He was the son of James and Mary Ann Bonar.

## 1860 Marshall County Census

TRUMAN (1214)  
Robert...52-wm...farmer...PA  
Sarah...45-wf...PA  
Eveline...25-wf...OH  
Robert...21-wm...farm laborer...OH  
Jefferson...18-wm...farm laborer...OH  
William...16-wm...farm laborer...VA  
Elias...14-wm...VA  
Joseph...12-wm...VA  
George S...10-wm...VA  
Albert...7-wm...VA

TRUMAN (1215)  
James...22-wm...farmer...OH

Mary J...20-wf...VA

Mary H...1-wf...VA

James M. Truman, Robert T. Truman, and Elias Truman served in Company "B" 12<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry. Thomas "Jefferson" Truman served in Company "I" 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia Infantry, later designated the 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Cavalry. William Truman served in Company "B" 7<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry.

Jefferson Truman was the first to lose his life. In 1861 he drowned. He is "Jefferson Truman" in the Civil War Draft record, which shows him in Company "I" 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. He is "Thomas J. Truman" in his Service record. Jefferson was one of many from Marshall County who joined Company "I" 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia infantry, a company raised by Captain William Purdy of Moundsville. The men went to Camp Hewes, near Clarksburg, and "joined for duty, enrolled" on July 6, 1861 and mustered in there on July 10. He "Drowned August 23, 1861, near Grafton, Va."

From the records of the West Virginia Adjutant General, 12<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Infantry:

TRUMAN, Elias; enrolled at Glen Easton, WV; 19; Aug 20, 1862, Wheeling, WV; June 16, 1865. Farmer, born Marshall Co., WV. Mustered out at Richmond, VA.

TRUMAN, James M.; enrolled at Cameron, WV; 26; Aug 20, 1862, Wheeling, WV; --. Farmer, born Belmont Co., (Monroe Co.?) Ohio. Died of Dysentery Aug 12, 1863, at his home in Marshall Co., WV. The charge of desertion of July 1863, has been removed from his record and he is discharged to date July 15, 1863, per 284, 722, War Dep't, Washington, D.C., June 1, 1891.

TRUMAN, Robert T.; enrolled at Glen Easton, WV; 23; Aug 20, 1862, Wheeling, WV; --. Farmer, born Monroe Co., Ohio. Died of Pneumonia Dec 14, 1862, at Cumberland, MD. - Robert was originally buried at Cumberland, Maryland and was reinterred at Antietam National Cemetery.

William Truman, Company "B" 7<sup>th</sup> W.Va. Infantry, born in Marshall County, a resident of Glen Easton, enlisted August 1, 1861 at Cameron, and received a disability discharge on June 24, 1862.

Following the war, Robert and Sarah Truman moved to Adams County, Iowa, the residence of their daughter Evaline Truman Bonar. Sarah died in Adams County in 1892, and Robert died there in 1894.