

James L. & Jared K. Botsford

© 2006 Linda Cunningham Fluharty



JAMES L. & JARED K. BOTSFORD

Brevet Major James Lawrence Botsford is best known for his service during the Civil War as a Lieutenant in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Jared Kirtland Botsford was an officer (3rd Engineer) in the United States Navy.

Published biographies state that Major Botsford was born in Mahoning County, Ohio on April 16, 1834 and died in Youngstown, Mahoning County, on October 6, 1898. Not mentioned is the fact that the Botsford family once lived in Wheeling, Ohio County, (West) Virginia.

1850 Census, Ohio County (W) Virginia

UNITED STATES HOTEL

Grant N. Botsford, 45, Tavern Keeper, \$1000, b Conn.

Eliza, 40, b Pa.

James L., 16, b Ohio

Jerrard K., 14, b Ohio

Thomas G., 12, b Ohio

Mary J., 8, b Ohio

(Other residents of the hotel are not listed here.)

The father, "Grant," was Archibald Grant Botsford. The family was in Trumbull County, Ohio at the time of the 1840 census, in Wheeling in 1850, and then in Mahoning County, Ohio in 1860, at which time Grant (A. G.) was a Butter Merchant. Sons, James L. and Jared Kirtland Botsford, were not listed in the census. James is known to have been working in mines in California from 1858-1861.

Also in Wheeling, Ohio County, (W) Virginia in 1850 was grocer, John K. Botsford, 43, born in Connecticut. He was John Kent Botsford, born March 8, 1807, the son of Moss Kent Botsford, Jr. and Abigail Beardsley, and the grandson of Captain Moss Kent Botsford. The Captain was the brother of John Botsford, who was the father of Archibald Grant Botsford. [Botsford Genealogy Family History Association.] – Therefore, John Kent Botsford was the second cousin of James L. and Jared Botsford.

John Kent Botsford married Matilda Dunlap in 1834 and they settled in Wheeling. Eventually, John K. was associated with the banking business of Wheeling. John's sister, Abigail "Sophia" Botsford, was born 20 May 1809 [Botsford Genealogy Family History Association] and married John C. Thompson* in Wheeling in Feb 1830. [Ohio County Marriage Records].

In 1870, following the Civil War, James L. Botsford, a merchant, age 36, was residing in Louisville, Kentucky with his wife, Ella B., 28, and daughter, Ella K., age 1. His father (still a butter dealer), his mother, and siblings, Thomas and Mary J., were living in Mahoning County, Ohio. The father died that year:

A. G. Botsford, 13 Nov 1870, 65 yrs, died at his residence in Ohio.
[*Wheeling Intelligencer* 19 Nov 1870]

By 1880, Major James L. Botsford and his family had returned to Mahoning County, Ohio.

The images of Major James L. Botsford and his brother, Jared Kirtland Botsford, a Union Naval officer, were in a photograph album of the Singleton family, originally from Wheeling. Some of the Singletons moved to Iowa after the war. No familial connection has been found and they have become friends during the time they were all residing on Wheeling.

JAMES LAWRENCE BOTSFORD

Officers of the Volunteer Army and Navy who served in the Civil War,
L. R. Hamersly & Co., 1893.

Brevet Major James Lawrence Botsford was born in Poland, Ohio, in 1834. He was mustered into the service of the United States as second lieutenant of Company E in the famous Twenty-third Ohio Regiment Volunteer Infantry, which was organized at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, and mustered into the United States service June 8, 1861, being the first original three years regiment to enlist from Ohio.

His first service was in West Virginia, where he was detailed as acting aide-de-camp to Colonel Scammon, commanding First Brigade Kanawha Division, Army of West Virginia; was engaged in the battle of Carnifax Ferry, September 10. January 17, 1862, he was promoted to first lieutenant and assigned to Company C. The captain and second lieutenant being absent on recruiting service, the command of the company devolved upon Lieutenant Botsford, and by his thorough drilling and discipline was soon the first in the regiment, and, as such, was selected by Lieutenant-Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes to make a forced march and attempt to capture a guerrilla band who were encamped on the southern slope of Great Flat Top Mountain, near Princeton.

He left camp with Company C, numbering seventy men all told, the night of April 29, 1862. At seven o'clock the next morning he made the attack, driving them from their camp and capturing four prisoners without loss to his command. After an hour's rest the return march commenced, but after marching some fifteen miles, the men declared they could march no farther, and the order to camp was reluctantly given, as Lieutenant Botsford knew that a regiment of Confederate troops was stationed at Princeton, only thirteen miles distant. At break of day, May 1, the company was on the road ready for marching, when one of the soldiers, looking up at the mountain-side, exclaimed, "Look there, lieutenant!"

It did not take long to find that his company was surrounded, and almost immediately a demand was made for his surrender. There being a double log-house near, he gave orders for his men to take possession. The house was situated in a hollow known as "Clark's Hollow," surrounded on all sides by mountains, which enabled the enemy to fire from the mountain-sides through the roof of the house. After two hours of severe fighting the enemy withdrew, leaving a number killed. Their wounded were carried off, and, as was afterwards learned, about forty-five Confederates were seriously wounded. Lieutenant Botsford's command suffered severely, one being killed and twenty-two wounded, five of whom died within a day or two.

August the 6th he was again detailed to serve with Colonel Scammon, commanding a brigade; August 20, division was ordered to Washington, and part of it was engaged in the second battle of Bull Run; was attached to the Ninth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac; September 13, in the battle at Frederick, Md.; September 14, South Mountain; September 17, Antietam; October 27, 1862, was promoted by President Lincoln to captain and assistant adjutant-general in the United States Volunteers for gallantry and good conduct. He served in West Virginia with General Scammon until January, 1864.

Thence as assistant adjutant-general to General George Crook, and was at the battles of Cloyd Mountain, New River Bridge, Blacksburg, Covington, Panther's Gap, and Buffalo Gap; thence on General Hunter's raid to Lynchburg, thence with Hunter's command to Shenandoah Valley. He was engaged in the battles of Snicker's Ferry, Cabletown, Stevenson's Depot, Winchester, and Martinsburg; thence to General Sheridan's department in the Shenandoah Valley. November, 1864, he was stationed at Cumberland, Maryland, detailed as assistant inspector-general of the Department of West Virginia; resigned February 25. He was commissioned brevet major March 13, 1865, for meritorious and distinguished conduct. He moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and was engaged in business there until 1872, when he moved to Youngstown,

Ohio, to engage in the manufacture of iron, and is now connected with the Mahoning Valley Iron Company, having been its treasurer since the formation of the company.

On January 11, 1892, he was appointed quartermaster-general of Ohio by Governor William McKinley, Jr., he having served in the same regiment and in the same army with the governor during the war. He was married January 27, 1864, to Ellen Ewing Blaine, and has a son and daughter living.

Genealogical and Family History of Eastern Ohio
New York: Lewis Pub. Co., 1903.

ELLEN EWING BOTSFORD

This esteemed lady is one of the social leaders of Youngstown, Ohio, and is thus prominent not only for her own good qualities and character but as being the widow of one who for many years was a familiar figure in military and business circles at Youngstown. Mrs. Botsford is an active worker in the Episcopal church, is regent of the chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Youngstown, and besides the numerous social duties devolving upon her, she also devotes herself to literary work. Her Maiden name was Ellen E. Blaine, and she is a native of Maysville, Kentucky, the daughter of Samuel L. and Anna (Coons) Blaine; she is also a first cousin of the late statesman and jurist James G. Blaine. She received her education in her native state, and in 1864 she was married to Major Botsford. Their two living children are Ella, the wife of F. H. Wick, of Youngstown, by whom she has one child, Alma; and James L., Jr., who, like his sister, received an excellent education, spending his last year in Yale.

James Lawrence Botsford was one of six children born to Archibald Grant and Eliza (Lynn) Botsford, natives of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, respectively; the former was for a number of years a comb manufacturer in Poland, Ohio. It was in this latter place that the son James was born, April 16, 1834. He was educated in the common schools of Poland, Poland Seminary, and in 1858 went to California, where he worked in the mines until 1861. He landed in New York, April 13, 1861, the day after the firing on Fort Sumter. As soon as he reached Poland he enlisted in a company that was forming there, and in the latter part of May the company was ordered to Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, where he became a second lieutenant in the famous Twenty-third Regiment, the first three years' regiment to enlist from the state. His first service was in West Virginia, where he was detailed as acting aide de camp to Colonel Scammon, commanding the Third Brigade, Kanawha Division, Army of West Virginia; was promoted to first lieutenant, January 17, 1862, and returned to his regiment and participated in the spring campaign. On August 6th, he was again assigned as aide to General Scammon, and on August 20th the division was ordered to Washington. Part of the division took part in the second battle of Bull Run under General Scammon, after which the Kanawha Division was made a part of the Army of the Potomac. The division led the advance at South Mountain. September 14, 1862, and was successful in gaining the crest of the mountain. Three days later it participated in the battle

of Antietam, after which the division was ordered back to West Virginia. On October 27, 1862, Lieutenant Botsford was promoted by President Lincoln to captain and assistant adjutant general of United States Volunteers. He served in West Virginia with General Scammon until January, 1864, and then was with Major General George Crook in a number of engagements, thence joined General Hunter's command in the Shenandoah valley, where he was later assigned to General Sheridan's department. In November, 1864, he was stationed at Cumberland and detailed as assistant inspector general of the department of West Virginia. After the war he was commissioned brevet major, to date from March 13, 1865, for meritorious and distinguished conduct.

After the war Major Botsford, with his brother Thomas G., was in the produce business in Louisville, Kentucky, until 1872, when he came to Youngstown and began the manufacture of iron. When the Mahoning Valley Iron Company was formed in 1879, he was elected treasurer and held that position till his death. He was one of the leading business men of the county, and met with remarkable success in all his undertakings. At one time he was a member of the city council, but soon resigned, which was the only civil office he would ever accept. On January 14, 1892, he was appointed quartermaster general of Ohio by Governor McKinley; they had both been comrades in arms in the Twenty-third, and had enlisted from the same town. At the reunion of the Twenty-third Ohio Regiment. Ohio Volunteer Infantry Association, General Botsford was unanimously chosen president, to succeed General Rutherford B. Hayes. During the Spanish war President McKinley again honored General Botsford's known ability and experience as a warrior by tendering him the appointment of brigadier general, but the latter declined.

After sixty-four years of such honorable and diligent activity, General Botsford's life came to a close on October 6, 1898, and the sincere grief displayed on every hand showed how he had endeared himself to his fellows and made his taking off a public calamity. He was one of the few individuals who had strength and the will to carry others over the rough places in life as well as himself; he was unselfish and untiring in his efforts, in whatever line they were put forth; and he had the faculty of making and retaining friends, so that his life was always cheery, and filled with all that was good and inspiring. At his death President McKinley sent the following message from the White House to Mrs. Botsford: "I am deeply grieved at your bereavement, and extend the heartfelt sympathy of Mrs. McKinley and myself to you and your family. The loss of such a dear and old comrade in arms comes home to me keenly, and his memory will always remain with me in tender recollection." Mr. and Mrs. Botsford were foremost in the work of the Episcopal church at Youngstown, in which he was vestryman and treasurer for twenty-one years. General Botsford was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Loyal Legion, and was thoroughly Republican in his political sympathies.

JARED KIRTLAND BOTSFORD

According to the National Archives and Records Administration, during the 19th century the Navy Department did not maintain personnel files for naval officers. However, JERARD H. BOTSFORD is found in *Callahan's List of Officers of the United States Navy and Marine Corps from 1775 to 1900*.

Page 68: BOTSFORD, JERARD H. – Third Engineer, 3 Oct 1861. Second Assistant Engineer, 3 Aug 1863. Died 25 July 1864.

There is no further information about Jared/Jerard Botsford in Record Group 45, Records of the Office of Navy Records and Library, Acceptances of Volunteer Appointments.

According to the Botsford Genealogy Family History Association, Jared died of yellow fever.