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Michael Donegan, by Marilyn Donegan

I want to thank my second cousin, once removed, Marilyn Donegan, for providing this information on her grgrandfather, my grgrgrandfather:

Michael Donigan, a resident of Apple Valley, Illinois enlisted in Company I of the 153 ILL Infantry, February 27, 1865. His military records are spelled "Dunnegan." The records show that he was over eighteen years of age, five foot, five and one-half inches tall, with dark eyes, brown hair, and dark complexion. His Volunteer Enlistment is signed with the mark "X".

The 153rd Infantry of Illinois volunteers was organized at Camp Fry, Illinois by Colonel Stephenson Bronson, and was mustered in on February 27, 1865, for one year. On March 4, they moved by rail via Louisville and Nashville to Tullahoma, reporting to Major General Millroy.

The Regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, Defenders of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, with Brevet Brigadier General Dudley as commander. In the latter part of March, Major Wilson, with three companies, went on a campaign into Alabama and returned. On July 1st they moved through Nashville and Louisville to Memphis, Tennessee, where they were assigned to the command of Brevet Major General A.L. Chetlain. They were mustered out September 15, 1865 and moved to Springfield, Illinois. On September 24th they received final pay and were discharged.

Following the war, Michael moved to Pleasant Valley Township, Illinois. In 1870 he was working as a farmhand. In 1873 he married Johanna Donahue (1852-1919). For a time they lived in northeastern Iowa, where their first child was born. They had four children, William (1874-1942), Elizabeth L. (1876), Mary E. (1878-1956), and Eugene (1883-1916). Another child Daniel is buried at the Plum River cemetery near Michael. His tombstone reads Daniel Dunigan s/o Michael, d Oct 30, 1883, 6m 12 d. This may be the child of Michael and Johanna since the 1900 census indicates that they had five children and that four were living at that time. Prior to his death in 1905, Michael left farming and moved the family to Savannah where he worked as a cinder shoveler for the railroad.

There were numerous spellings of Donegan until approximately 1910. Variations included Dunnigan (1850), Dunigan (1860), Dinigan (1870), Donegan (1880), Donnegan, Dunigan, (1900), Donegan, Dunigan (1910). When Joanna applied for Michael's pension she needed to prove that the Michael Donegans with different spellings were indeed the same individual. (See pension file).

Additional information about this story

Description	
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Attached to	Michael Donnegan (1846 - 1905)
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