

Joshua Morfoot, Drummer, Co. "D", A Field Musician in the 7th Maryland And his father Cpl. Robert Morfoot

The town of Warren was flooded when the Loch Raven Reservoir (North of Baltimore) was created in the 1920s. The outskirts and elevated parts of the town remain as foundations of buildings in the Gun Powder Park or as homes absorbed into the surrounding communities. The Morfoot home is a 1 ½ acre property on Warren Road, Cockeysville and is still in use.

The Morfoot family consisted of Father Robert, mother Elizabeth, 2 years younger brother William, and 6 years younger sister Millie.

Robert Morfoot, a stone mason, enlisted in the 7th MD August 20, 1862 at the age of 42. His service and pension records do not detail much until a little less than a year after enlistment when his health took a downturn. On the march between Williamsport, MD and Warrenton, VA., July of 1863, while carrying a cartridge box without shoulder straps he "contracted a rupture in the groin". He was treated for this in a convalescent camp on the Virginia side of Washington DC. Then came Rappahannock Station, VA. (There is recurring correlation in the service records of the musicians between this location and Typhoid Fever or its symptoms). In October, 1863 Robert was sick in Division Hospital; November 1863 to February, 1864 he was moved to another hospital and listed as sick in Washington (this may be the Madison Mansion he referred to in his pension testimony); March, 1864 until his discharge in July of 1865 he was at Finley Hospital. (Finley Hospital was located in Northeast East Washington on Bladensburg Rd.) He was treated for chronic diarrhea, as well as for the hernia. His service record shows a "stop" for transportation to Cockeysville in the Sept/Oct 1864 record. He was also granted a short furlough home in February, 1865. In the spring of 1865, he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve (INVALID) Corps at Finley Hospital. He was discharged July 26 1865

Robert returned to his trade as stone mason after his discharge. He had not recovered from his hernia or chronic diarrhea. His work remained light (i.e. small chimneys, cultivating potatoes in his home garden). With his son, William, as witness, he applied for an INVALID, pension on the grounds that his condition was contracted while in the service of this country and that since his discharge he was not able to work more than on third of the time. This pension was granted. Robert died July 24, 1903 and is buried in Jessops Cemetery on York Road, Hunt Valley. Also in Jessops are his wife Elizabeth, son William and daughter-in-law Mary.

Joshua enlisted in June of 1863 at the age of 16. He was discharged in July of 1865.

Joshua is the only musician to have received a "special notice for gallantry in sounding the assembly, at the battle of Dabney's Mill, Va.," Joshua's service record does make a note of him sick on the May/June and July/August, 1864 reports. His service record shows him transferred to Co. C, 1st MD in Feb of 1865. There are no muster out roll or discharge papers in his copy of the service record. An investigation was made into service record during his pension hearings. It also notes a lack of discharge papers and muster out rolls and his lack of service records in the 1st MD. After his discharge, Joshua worked as a stone mason for a short time. He then went West, mostly around Nebraska, to work as a ranch hand for 15 years. When he returned home, he resumed work as a farm laborer. He remained unmarried.

In the Act of June 27, 1890, the declaration for INVALID pension changed. It required: 1) an honorable discharge, 2) a minimum of 90 days of service, and 3) a permanent disability "not due to vicious habits". Pensions under prior laws had to show that the claimant was disabled at the time he left service and that it continued to disable him. This new act allowed for compensation even if the disability was not war related.

Joshua's pension record shows him applying in 1892 and every year after until his death in 1899. Joshua's claim was that he contracted measles while in the service (noted as "sick" in his service record). This disease had affected his eyes. His was also claiming rheumatism, heart disease, Piles, disease of the liver, kidneys, and diges-

tion. These various ailments were "such as to incapacitate him to normal labor about one third of the time". His claims were continuously denied on the examiners grounds "resubmitted for rejection, subject to the opinion of the medical *referee* on the grounds of not being disabled in a *reasonable* degree". (The italic words are a guess on the translation of cursive writing)

Joshua's testimony in the Pension record had many contradictions with the rest of his record. He did not have a copy of his discharge records, but swears he was never transferred out of the 7th to the 1st. He states he was discharged as part of the 7th MD at Camp Bradford, near Baltimore in June of 1865. Sometimes, his pension claim records name him as Josiah Morfoot, or Joshua Morfeit or Morfeet. This name changing caused a problem with the pension filings. In 1894 he made a testimony that states he only made one claim, in 1892, that he did not know of the subsequent claims nor did he know the people shown as his witnesses; however the signatures looked like his. Then he had to say "I sometimes drink a little too much, I get among friends and I may have signed ----- sworn to that paper sometime." The claims continued until his death - never granted.

Joshua retired to the Soldier's Home in Elizabeth City, VA in 1898 and died June 16, 1899. He is buried in Hampton National Cemetery.

Sources: Service and Pension Records, Census records, Baltimore Co. Historical Maps, Jessops Cemetery and National Cemetery Listings.