

Private Lewis Pfeifer, Company G

Private Lewis Pfeifer was born about 1830 in Germany and immigrated to the United States through the Port of Baltimore. During the 19th century the Port of Baltimore was the second-leading port of entry for immigrants after New York City. Germans were the largest group of immigrants arriving in Baltimore between 1820 and 1860 and over 43,000 Marylanders were German-born according to the 1860 census .

In October 1856 Lewis (sometimes spelled Louis) renounced his loyalty to the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt in western Germany at the Courthouse in Frederick City and became a United States citizen. He married Julia Ann Ray January 29, 1860 in Burkittsville and a daughter, Martha Ann, was born in July 1862.

With the outbreak of the Civil War thousands of German-born men enlisted in the Union Army, with over 200,000 serving between 1861 and 1865. The Germans and Irish were the largest immigrant communities supporting the Union. While working as a laborer Lewis enlisted in Company G of the 7th Maryland in Middletown August 19, 1862. During 1863 Lewis and the 7th Maryland participated in the final stages of the Gettysburg campaign, the Bristoe Station campaign and the Mine Run campaign. By late December 1863 the 7th Maryland had established its winter encampment southeast of Culpeper with the rest of the Army of the Potomac.

Unfortunately, Lewis died of heart disease December 31, 1863 and was buried in a temporary cemetery near Culpeper. Julia Ann applied for a monthly widow's pension and \$8 was approved with a subsequent increase to \$10 per month to help support Martha Ann. Following the Civil War Lewis was moved to Culpeper National Cemetery, where he now rests in Section A1.



Photo courtesy of historian Daniel Toomey.



Baltimore Harbor in 1849.

Right, Lewis Pfeifer's headstone in Culpeper National Cemetery, where he now rests in Section A1.

