

Privates John William and Peter Biser , Co. "G"

Privates John William and Peter Biser were born in Frederick County, Maryland, to farmer Peter Biser and Mahala Brown Biser, two of nine children. John was born in 1842 and Peter two years later. By 1862 the brothers were working as farm laborers and in August 1862 both enlisted in Company G of the 7th Maryland in Middletown, Maryland. John was 5' 10" tall with grey eyes and black hair and Peter 5' 8" tall with grey eyes and fair hair. At the time the 7th Maryland was being organized in Baltimore at Camp Harford. Both John and Peter were recorded as absent without leave from October 1862 to February 1863 while the 7th Maryland was spending its first winter on Maryland Heights near Harpers Ferry. John was again absent without leave in July 1863 and marked as a deserter. When he was arrested in November 1863 and returned to the 7th Maryland he lost two months pay (\$30 dollars) after facing a general court martial. John was wounded during the Battle of Spotsylvania on May 8, 1864, and sent to a hospital in Washington City to recover. He returned to duty in early 1865 while the 7th Maryland was in winter camp outside Petersburg. On April 1, 1865, the 7th Maryland as part of the 5th Corps participated in the Battle of Five Forks. Sadly, Peter was mortally wounded during the battle. Buried on a local farm his remains were moved to Poplar Grove National Cemetery, in Petersburg, Virginia, after the war. Due to poor record keeping his name was recorded as C. B. Biser as reflected on his marble headstone today. John mustered out with the 7th Maryland in May 1865 and returned to Frederick County, marrying Effa Jane Catherine Reeder. John and Effa had two children, John Edward (born 1866) and Martha Virginia (born 1874). Effa died in 1908 and was buried in Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery in Washington County. John joined her following his death on May 28, 1930, at the age of 88. A third Biser brother, William Henry (born in 1841) also served during the Civil War. William enlisted in Company A of the 1st Maryland Home Brigade Infantry in February 1865. The 1st Maryland Home Brigade was shortly reorganized as the 13th Maryland Infantry and William mustered out in May 1865. He died in 1874, survived by his wife and four children.



Left, Peter Biser's headstone at Poplar Grove National Cemetery misidentifies him as "C.B. Biser."

Right, the obituary notice for Civil war Veteran John. W. Biser.

Below, a view of the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, Petersburg, VA.



CIVIL WAR VETERAN DIES AT AGE OF 88

John W. Biser Expires At At His Home At Bakersville

John W. Biser, a Civil War veteran, who was in Company G, 7th Regiment, Maryland Volunteers and was wounded in the head at Shiloh, died at his home at Bakersville of general debility at noon yesterday, aged 88.

He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Sarah Biser, nine grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

The funeral will be held on Saturday at 10 a. m. at the Bakersville Church by Rev. Snavely. Interment in the Bakersville Cemetery.