

## 4.12 Shadrack H. and Elizabeth Bowman



**Mary's Jomanda**

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### **Deuteronomy 4: 29-31**

**“If you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you.”**

# The Civil War—Battle of Gettysburg!

**Shadrack Howard Bowman**

1826-1863



**Elizabeth Goodfellow**

1829-1862



Shadrack Howard Bowman enlisted in the 95th Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers on 13 September 1862. My question concerning this matter: Why would a man with small children, whose mother (his own wife!) had already died, ENLIST to fight in the Civil War? First, perhaps he did not volunteer. He might have been drafted. In 1970, I myself ENLISTED (i.e., volunteered??) in the National Guard, because the alternative was to be drafted and be sent to unknown locations with unknown consequences.

Second, according to the US Census Reports of 1850 and 1860, Shadrack and Elizabeth Bowman had 5 children, of which 2 of the 3 boys had died prior to 1860. Then Elizabeth herself died in March of 1862, and a daughter was to die in October of that year. So far, I have found no record of Shadrack's parents or the cause of death of Elizabeth or the children.

The family lived in Germantown, Philadelphia, where living conditions may not have been the best. In the 1850 census report, Shadrack, Elizabeth, and their first two children (ages 1 year and 1 month!) lived in a household with 7 other young

adults. Such terrible losses, perhaps caused by epidemic (we know of smallpox and diphtheria) may have been more than Shadrack could endure.

A third possibility for Shadrack's enlisting may have been an attitude held by the family about the Civil War. A close relative of Shadrack called the Civil War the "War of Rebellion." The prevailing attitude in Pennsylvania was most certainly a righteous one, that soldiers in the Union Army were the "good guys" while those in the Confederate Army were the "bad guys." So, to Shadrack, enlisting may have seemed to be a heroic thing for a man, especially one who had suffered so much loss, to do! People from Pennsylvania did not recognize the heroism of the men of the South who had to fight for their homes. It's likely that today, many STILL do not see this.

Whatever the reason, Shadrack and Elizabeth had lost two children by 1860, she died in March of 1862, Shadrack enlisted to fight in the Civil War in September of that year, and yet another child died in October. With the Civil War raging, Shadrack's unit, fought in the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. (Remember the famous Gettysburg Address, given by President Lincoln on July 4 of that year!) Shadrack died in a Philadelphia hospital 2½ months later on September 14 of that year of "abdominal or pelvic abscess." This sounds like a war injury, maybe a bayonet wound, from an infantry battle, maybe Gettysburg. Specific information is not available. Shadrack was buried in Philadelphia National Cemetery. The family has pictures of his grave. Today he is recognized in Arlington National Cemetery.

Only 2 of the children survived to adulthood:

1. John G. Bowman (1849-1908). According to his "Autobiography," (July 2, 1902) by the advice of his physician, John removed from Germantown and moved to Berlin, NJ in 1890, where he spent the rest of his life. His sister (my great grandmother!) Emma and her family appear to have moved to Vineland, NJ in about 1887. Considering the terrible diseases of the day, Germantown was probably not a very good place to raise a family. Moving to New Jersey was an excellent decision for the whole family! Concerning the longevity of my great grandmother Emma Bowman who lived to be 100 years, I was in touch with some of John's descendants, who told me that a member of their family lived to be 102.

**2. Emma Bowman (1855-1955). My great grandmother, whom I knew for the last decade of her life, and the first decade of my own. Ironically, for all the infant deaths of her siblings and her own children, she actually lived to be 100 in a period of time before the antibiotics and medical technology of today. Because Emma's parents, Shadrack Howard Bowman and Elizabeth Goodfellow, died so young, she was raised by her maternal grandparents John Goodfellow and Rachael Nice. In difficult times like these were, it was NICE for Emma to have a GOODFELLOW like John to live with. BTW, my great grandmother's longevity may have come from her grandfather, John Goodfellow who lived to be 95.**

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