

Samuel Wilkins

My name is Carol Rife. I am going to introduce my great, great grandfather, Samuel Wilkins, who joined the Union Army, fought in a battle, in Tennessee, and died all in the year of 1862.

Samuel was born on October 2, 1827, in Burlington, New Jersey. His wife, Harriet Worden was born on March 26, 1827, in Illinois. They married at age 22 on January 9, 1849, in Quincy, Illinois. Together they had six children: Worden, George, Hairnab, Mary, Susan and Abraham. They were farmers in Biggsville, Illinois.

On August 8, 1862, at age 35, Samuel enlisted in the Union Army as a private at Biggsville, Illinois. On September 1, 1862, he mustered into "K" Company of the Illinois 34th Infantry. He gained the rank of Corporeal. He fought in the Battle of Stone River, Tennessee, and died on December 31, 1862.

Here is a picture of Samuel Wilkins wearing his corporeal uniform. He is five feet ten and one half inches tall with brown eyes and black hair. He is wearing a Model 1855 Frock Coat, a Model 1858 Kepi or Foragers Hat and "Jeff Davis" brogan shoes.



He brought a little doll home to his daughter, Mary, from Quincy, Illinois, after enlisting in 1862. The little doll pictured here is still in our family.



At his death, Samuel, left his wife, Harriet, on the farm with six children to care for. She eventually married again. Bless her heart.