

## WYATT, WILLIAM J

Name WYATT, WILLIAM J  
Rank LTC Company HQ Unit 101 IL US INF

### Personal Characteristics

Residence Age N/A Height N/A Hair N/A  
Eyes N/A Complexion N/A Marital Status N/A Occupation N/A  
Nativity N/A

### Service Record

Joined When AUG 21, 1862 Joined Where N/A  
Joined By Whom N/A Period 3 YRS  
Muster In SEP 2, 1862 Muster In Where JACKSONVILLE, IL  
Muster In By Whom N/A Muster Out N/A  
Muster Out Where N/A Muster Out By Whom N/A  
Remarks RESIGNED APR 9, 1863 FOR DISABILITY

He is listed on the Jacksonville Civil War monument and the 1872 Morgan Co. History.

He applied for pension Apr 17 1875 and Feb 26 1907, no state listed, assumed to be IL. He died 18 Oct 1912.

His wife, Sally, applied for pension Dec 10 1917 from IL.



### PROMINENT MORGAN COUNTY CITIZEN DEAD.

Colonel William J. Wyatt, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, native born residents of Morgan county and a veteran of two wars, passed away at his home in Franklin Friday evening at 8 o'clock, at the age of 87 years. Colonel Wyatt had been in failing health all summer but until about a week ago was able to be up and around. At that time, however, he was taken to his bed and gradually weakened until the end, and death is attributed to paralysis of the neck and throat and ailments incident to old age.

William J. Wyatt was born on a farm five miles southeast of Jacksonville, October 28, 1825, and was a son of John and Rebecca Wyatt, who came to Illinois from Missouri. John Wyatt was a farmer and stock raiser and an old line Democrat, having served two terms in the Illinois state legislature when the state capital was located at Vandalia. He held a commission as lieutenant during the Black Hawk war and died January 6, 1849. His wife passed away in August, 1866.

Colonel Wyatt, who spent practically his entire life in this county, obtained his education in the subscription schools of the county, but was compelled to remain at home and manage his father's farm, as he was away from home a great deal of the time looking after his stock interests. On October 29, 1848, Colonel Wyatt was married to Mrs. Eliza A. Williams, who died February 12, 1892. The colonel was also preceded in death by a son and daughter. He was married a second time to Sarah Dodd of Waverly, a daughter of Elijah Dodd, who with one son, George H. Wyatt of this county, survive. Colonel Wyatt was a member of Hicks lodge No. 93, of Waverly, and on April 8, 1853, he became a charter member of Franklin lodge No. 121, I. O. O. F. He was actively interested in assisting to promote several public service enterprises, among them being the Jacksonville, Louisville and St. Louis railroad, which was built mainly by M. P. Ayers, now deceased. Mr. Wyatt secured a vote for the issue of bonds along the route for the construction of this road. He was a member of the Methodist church. Colonel Wyatt had a record for war service that is equaled by few in this community. Under Governor Ford, in 1845-46 he served in the state militia which was detailed to keep peace among the Mormons and anti-Mormon elements in Carthage, serving as a first lieutenant of a mounted

infantry and remaining in winter quarters in that city.

With consent of his father he left home on March 14, 1846 and on the thirtieth of the following May he enlisted in Company G of the regiment commanded by Colonel John J. Harden for service in the Mexican war. This regiment enjoyed the distinction of being the first of any kind ever organized in Illinois for a national war.

Mr. Wyatt was elected captain of his company and early in June the regiment was mustered in at Alton. The destination of the regiment was thought to be Chihuahua, but they were ordered to Monclovia and after five weeks went to Parras, where General John B. Wool, in command of that division of the army, received orders from General Taylor to march on to Buena Vista Pass and meet the Mexican army under Santa Anna. At this historic battle, in which the Americans overcame overwhelming odds, Col. Wyatt and his company took an active part. They were in the right wing of the American troops and supported Captain Washington's battery to the pass, the key to the battle ground and although the Americans' loss in killed and wounded was heavy, not a man under Colonel Wyatt was lost. In the number of killed were eleven commissioned officers of the American army, four of whom were colonels, among them Colonel Hardin. Colonel Wyatt, who was an intimate friend, in company with his orderly sergeant and others, brought in the lifeless remains from the battlefield and the body first found resting place on Mexican soil but when the service was over the remains were brought to Jacksonville and buried in the Jacksonville cemetery.

In 1847 Colonel Wyatt was honorably discharged at Camargo, Mexico, and returned to this county, making the trip by way of the Gulf of Mexico and New Orleans. He engaged in the cattle business, but when the Civil War broke out he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 101st regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry by Governor Yates. This regiment was in command of Colonel Fox and when the men arrived at Cairo, Colonel Wyatt became ill but he remained with his command. He was taken a prisoner by the Confederates at Holly Springs, Miss., while ill there and was taken to Benton Barracks with a number of paroled prisoners and placed in charge of them. On account of physical disability he was honorably discharged from the service in May, 1863. - Jacksonville Journal. (He died 18 Oct 1912)

Col. Wyatt was initiated into Waverly lodge No. 93, I. O. O. F. Oct. 22, 1851. Funeral services were conducted from the family residence in Franklin Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock in charge of Rev. A. H. Flagge of Assumption, assisted by Rev. Peter Kittle, pastor of the M. E. church of Franklin. Interment was in Franklin cemetery, and the services at the grave were conducted by the Franklin lodge of Odd Fellows. Waverly Journal, Waverly, Illinois, Oct. 25, 1912