

James Gillespie, Unknown Veteran

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This paper is meant to summarize the research done to date on trying to identify the gravestone found in Franklin Cemetery, Michigan for James Gillespie, died 29 Jun 1866, age 46. His stone has a flag engraved on it and is located next to other Gillespie-Greer pioneers, although to date we have not been able to establish the relationship of this veteran to the other family found buried together (or more accurately, their stones are lined up together). The pioneer stones were moved from a Greer family cemetery near Gilbert Lake (date unknown). One might assume this stone for James Gillespie was moved at the same time, but it might have been installed at Franklin Cemetery later.

It is still my conclusion, as of this date, that none of the James Gillespie's who served for the Union for Michigan can be the James Gillespie buried in Franklin Cemetery. Cousin D. thinks there could be a connection to the James S. Gillespie who apparently enlisted twice – during one of those tours that James served with Charles W. Husted of Caro, MI. However, as noted below, it appears that James S. Gillespie died in 1913, so he also cannot be our mystery veteran.

The following is a list of James Gillespie's who served for Michigan, obtained from:
<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.cfm>

No.	Soldier Name	Side	Function	Regiment Name
1	Gillespie, J.W.	Union	Cavalry	2nd Regiment, Michigan Cavalry

Regiment Name 2 Michigan Cavalry
Side Union
Company E
Soldier's Rank_In Pvt.
Soldier's Rank_Out Pvt.
Alternate Name James W./Gillespy

The National Park Service website said J.W. was in Company E, but he wasn't listed in that company but in "unassigned" on this website:

<http://www.michiganinthewar.org/cavalry/2cavun.htm>

ancestry info:
(database: U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865)

Name: James Gillespie
Enlistment Date: 14 Nov 1863
Enlistment Place: Eureka, Montcalm County, Michigan
Side Served: Union
State Served: Michigan
Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 14 November 1863 at the age of 19.
Drafted into Company U, 2nd Cavalry Regiment Michigan on 14 Nov 1863.

I don't think from his home town or his age, this could be our guy. If he was that young, we might find a record that says who his parents were.

Note: I do not find any Gillespie (any spelling) in Montcalm county in 1860 census.

- 2 Gillespie, Union Cavalry 3rd Regiment, Michigan Cavalry
James This is our relation, Robert's son. James H. Gillespie died in Denver, Colorado in 1931 is buried there.
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- 3 Gillespie, Union Infantry 24th Regiment, Michigan Infantry
James

Regiment Name	24 Michigan Infantry
Side	Union
Company	C
Soldier's Rank_In Corp.	
Soldier's Rank_Out	Pvt.
Alternate Name	
Notes	
Film Number	M545 roll 16

James Gillespie, Plymouth, enlisted 24th infantry as corporal Aug 9 1862 age 25, taken prisoner at Gettysburg, 1 July 1863; discharged for disability at Camp Chase, Ohio 8 Jun 1865; present residence: Eloise, MI
Not our guy either:

<http://www.plymouthhistory.org/archives/c-company.-24th-michigan-ghi.html>

from ancestry:
Name: James Gillispie

Residence: Plymouth, Michigan
Enlistment Date: 9 Aug 1862
Enlistment Place: Plymouth, Michigan
Side Served: Union
State Served: Michigan
Service Record: Enlisted as a Corporal on 9 August 1862 at the age of 25.
Enlisted in Company C, 24th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 15 Aug 1862.
Received a disability discharge from Company C, 24th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 8 Jun 1865 at Camp Chase, OH.

Note I do not find Gillespie (of any spelling) in Plymouth, MI in 1860 census.

Note: James "S" actually enlisted twice so the next 2 belong to him

- 4 Gillespie, Union Infantry 3rd Regiment, Michigan Infantry (1st organization)
James S.

<http://thirdmichigan.blogspot.com/2008/11/james-s-gillespie.html>
(he died in 1913!)

Regiment Name 3 Michigan Infantry (1st Organization)
Side Union
Company A
Soldier's Rank_In Wagoner
Soldier's Rank_Out Wagoner

from ancestry:

Name: James Gillespie
Enlistment Date: 13 May 1861
Enlistment Place: Grand Rapids, Michigan
Side Served: Union
State Served: Michigan
Service Record: Enlisted as a Wagoner on 13 May 1861 at the age of 36.
Enlisted in Company A, 3rd Infantry Regiment Michigan on 10 Jun 1861.
Received a disability discharge from Company A, 3rd Infantry Regiment Michigan on 20 Jun 1862 at Savage's Station, VA.

5 Gillespie, Union Infantry 27th Regiment, Michigan Infantry
James S.

Regiment Name 27 Michigan Infantry
Side Union
Company H
Soldier's Rank_In Pvt.
Soldier's Rank_Out Pvt.

from ancestry:

Name: James Gillespie

Enlistment Date: 10 Mar 1863

Enlistment Place: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Side Served: Union

State Served: Michigan

Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 10 March 1863 at the age of 38.

Enlisted in Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 10 Apr 1863.

Mustered Out Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 26 Jul 1865 at Delaney House, Washington, DC.

Note that I do find James S. Gillespie in Grand Rapids in the 1860 census. He is from New York, apparently married to somebody named Caroline also from NY and with 2 small children.

There is one other James Gillespie I find who served for Michigan; this person was killed in the war:

Name: James Gillhespy

Residence: Chester, Michigan

Enlistment Date: 5 Aug 1862

Enlistment Place: Chester, Michigan

Side Served: Union

State Served: Michigan

Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 5 August 1862 at the age of 31.

Enlisted in Company E, 21st Infantry Regiment Michigan on 3 Sep 1862.

Killed Company E, 21st Infantry Regiment Michigan on 31 Dec 1862 at Stones River, TN.

Finally, I did notice there was a James Gillaspie from New York, born about 1823 living in Addison, Oakland, MI – which is the same county as our pioneers, but still about 100 miles away. I checked the 1870 census and he and his family were still there, so he cannot be the James Gillespie who died in 1866.

Since the early Gillespie's came from New York, there's some chance that this James Gillespie served with that state but he was later buried with his family in Michigan (even though we can't yet establish his relationship). I have not spent a great deal of time following up on all these names.

No.	Soldier Name	Side	Function	Regiment Name
3	Gillespie, James	Union	Artillery	2nd Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery
4	Gillespie, James	Union	Infantry	2nd Regiment, New York Infantry can't find him http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/Infantry/2nd_Infantry_CW_Roster.pdf
5	Gillespie, James	Union	Artillery	5th Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery
6	Gillespie, James	Union	Infantry	72nd Regiment, New York Infantry GILLESPIE, JAMES.—Age, 23 years. Enlisted at Staten Island, to serve three years, and mustered in as private, Co. C, and transferred to Co. H, Seventy-first Infantry, July 21, 1861.
7	Gillespie, James	Union	Infantry	37th Regiment, New York Infantry GILLESPIE, JAMES.—Age, 19 years. Enlisted, May 9, 1861, at New York city, to serve two years; mustered in as private, Co. K, June 7, 1861; transferred to Co. E, June —, 1861; mustered out with company, June 22, 1863, at New York city.
8	Gillespie, James	Union	Infantry	71st Regiment, New York Infantry - see #6
9	Gillespie, James	Union	Infantry	73rd Regiment, New York Infantry GILLESPIE, JAMES.—Age, 19 years. Enlisted, July 26, 1861, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. A, August 14, 1861; transferred to Co. F, September 1, 1861; re-enlisted as a veteran, December 30, 1863; promoted

corporal, July 1, 1864; mustered out with company,
June 29, 1865, near Washington, D. C. ; also borne as Gallispie.

- 10 Gillespie,
James Union Infantry 80th Regiment, New York Infantry
G I L L I S P I E , J A M E S.—Age, 18 years. Enlisted, September 7,
1861, at Griffins Corners, to serve three years; mustered in as
private, Co. G, September 18, 1861; discharged for disability,
December 29, 1862.
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- 11 Gillespie,
James Union Infantry 25th Regiment, New York Infantry National Guard (3 months,
1862)
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- 12 Gillespie,
James K. Union Infantry 115th Regiment, New York Infantry
G I L L E S P I E , J A M E S K.—Age, 36 years. Enlisted, August 8,
1862, at Milton, to serve three years; mustered in as sergeant,
Co. O, August 9, 1862; wounded and captured in action and
paroled, September 16, 1862, at Harper's Perry, Y a . ; returned
to ranks, no date; absent, sick in General Hospital, Wilmington,
N. C. , at muster-out of company.

A couple other things to consider:

- When I look at the Civil War pension applications, I noticed that a couple James Gillespie's were 'regular army' which are (apparently) not associated with a state. Potentially this James was a career military person? This might be a possibility to follow up on.
- There is still the possibility that this James served for some other state other than MI or NY. It's hard to know.
- There is also the possibility that this James served in a different war. The only one I can think of is the Mexican-American War fought, generally, 1846-48. This James would have been in his late 20's at that time and so could have served there.
- It's still worth hunting through pension applications – there's no way to know if this James left behind a family, but he was old enough that he might have. I should put it on my to-do list to look for probate records and orphan records in Michigan around the time of his death.