Meetings held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm

Place:
Cultural Hall
LDS Church
1041 West Grand River Ave.
Howell, Michigan
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES M. EASTON OF OAK GROVE, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

By Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, 2602 Ryegate Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308


In answer to an inquiry from the Pension Office, Charles Easton penned a two page autobiography. His handwriting was very neat and his spelling was fairly good. However, for the convenience of the modern reader, spelling and capitalization have been standardized. Punctuation has also been added for clarity. It was sometimes tricky to determine where he intended to end his sentences.

Oct. 12th, 1889

James Tanner, Commissioner [of Pensions]

Sir:

In reply to yours of the 7th instant [7 Oct. 1889] my place [of] residence when I enlisted was Ontario, Wayne County, New York. In September 1865 I came to Michigan, County of Livingston, Town of Cohoctah. In April 1878 I moved into the Township of Deerfield, Livingston Co. My P.O. address has been Oak Grove since 1865. My occupation a Farmer (for I don't know enough to do anything else). On or about May 12th 1865 I injured my stomach. I was ambulance driver at that time. The forward axle-tree of the ambulance I had was sprung down. In driving through a wood road it caught on some stumps. I had to lift one wheel, hold it up, start my team & carry it over the stumps. (There was three sick men in the ambulance at the time). I felt a pain in my stomach at the time. The next morning I got some medicine of our Regt. Surgeon (Dr. Vosburg) & took medicine until discharged. The medicine did not seem to do me any good. I gradually grew weaker. When we got to Syracuse, N.Y., I could hardly walk. I was not able to go to camp with the Regt., [and I] was sent to a Soldiers Retreat in the City. It was in charge of a man by the name of Hibbard at that time. Stayed there until the 16th of June 1865, that day we were paid & our discharges handed to us. I got home some time in the of the 16th June 1865. The 17th June 1865 Dr. Seth Easton commenced treating me. He treated me till Sep. 1865. I got better & came to Michigan. In Oct. 1865 Dr. Easton came to Michigan. I took medicine that he prescribed till Feb. 1867 then he went to the State of New York. In the fall of 1867 Dr. A. J. Brown treated me & for a number of years I got medicine of him. For the past ten years Dr. W. H. Erwin of Oak Grove has been my family Dr. The most of the time my stomach is in such a shape sometimes I can't
eat hardly anything. I have had to take medicine for nearly one half of the
time since I was discharged. Some of the time I can do quite a little work,
other times it is all I can do is to get around & see to things. I am very seldom
confined to the bed & never well. I have been troubled with rheumatism in
one hip & leg the most of the time since discharged, alleged cause—
exposure while in service. For the past year I have not been able to labor
over 1/3 of the time at actual labor. I cannot state just the amount of time I
have lost by reason of my disability. I don't know as this is just what you want
or not. If it is not, please let me know.

[signed] Charles M. Easton

Pension File Citation: Civil War Pension File of Charles M. Easton (widow Emily
A. Easton); Cos. A and F, 111th New York Infantry; File No. XC2,666,536;
Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration; National Archives,
Washington, DC.