

George Rogers Marvel [61339]

and spouse Sarah H. McReynolds

{This biography was copied from the M Marvel History beginning on page 305. Additional information on the McReynolds family is available in the Historical Discourses in this document.}

George Rogers Marvel [61339] the ninth and youngest child of Prettyman Marvel and Lavina (Rogers) Marvel, was born in Gibson County, Indiana on March 8, 1815. He married August 13, 1834 to Sarah H. McReynolds, the daughter of Edward and Sarah (Anderson) McReynolds. Sarah was born in Wilson County, Tennessee, April 27, 1820.

Being the youngest child, it fell to the lot of George R. to care for his parents. So he and his wife remained at the old Marvel homestead until 1849 when he bought two- or three-hundred acres in Posey County, Indiana. The farm was located about five miles from Poseyville, and a little more than that distance from New Harmony, Indiana. He removed here, taking his parents with him and building a small comfortable house for them where they remained, receiving very careful attention from George and his wife. But the mother, Lavina (Rogers) Marvel soon died and thereafter Prettyman Sr., lived in the home of his son George R. In 1851, George R. Marvel removed to Franklin County, Illinois. He bought what was then called "Fancy Farm" a track of five or six hundred acres on which was a large two story house. This was located in Cave Township in the extreme south eastern part of the county about sixteen miles from Benton, Illinois, the county seat.

At beginning of the Civil War, he enlisted in Company C, Thirty-first Illinois Infantry as a Veterinary Surgeon, under General John A. Logan. He was a close friend and comrade of General Logan, and through his influence, George R. was commissioned a Colonel to raise a thousand men. He came to Cairo, Illinois and took the train for Chicago, stopping at the towns on the road. By the time he got back to Cairo he had enlisted 13,000 men. He organized the Thirteenth Illinois Cavalry, which he led to the front in service for the Union cause. He fought at Belmont, Fort Henry, {Fort} Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Oxford, Holly Springs, Champion Hill, Black River, Raymond, Vicksburg and in numerous skirmishes. He received a flesh wound at Fort Donelson. He became so disabled by rheumatism he had to be helped on and off his horse. On account of this and of deafness, he resigned as Colonel before the close of the war. Four sons and two son-in-laws were with him in the army.

George R. and wife were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church he having joined when a lad of seventeen. He was a steward for over twenty years. In politics he was a Republican and a strong Abolitionist. He was always a lover of fine horses and usually had several to exhibit at the County Fairs. Colonel George Rogers Marvel died on February 16, 1889. {Burial was in Liberty Community Cemetery, Franklin County, Illinois.} His wife, Sarah H. McReynolds died on June 29, 1901.

George R. and Sarah H. Marvel had twelve children as follows: Asenath Ellen, Prettyman Wood, John Julian, Wiley Hensley, William Teal, James Edward, Sarah Elizabeth, Lucy Jenett, Lavina Jean, George Hill, Martha Ann, and Hattie May.