

CANAWLERS AT REST

ITHA MERIL THOMPSON

Find-A-Grave #131431160

b. February 10, 1845

d. March 22, 1932

**By Carolyn I. Schmidt
Research by Madonna Jervis**

Itha "Ike" Meril Thompson was born on February 10, 1845 to George (1812-1892) and Caroline F. (Butts) (1820-1848) Thompson in Springfield township, LaGrange county, Indiana. We don't know much about his early life.

Around 1860 when he was about 15 years of age, he found work on a canal grain boat that traveled between Delphi and Lafayette on the Wabash & Erie Canal. This was after the canal had passed its hey-day. He said that in the spring as the boat moved up and down the canal, the crew would plant gardens at certain places near the canal. They tended them until they bore crops and then stopped the boat to gather the vegetables.

Itha, age 18, was married to Sarah Ellis, age 17, on January 25, 1864 in Carroll county, Indiana and took up residence there. They were the parents of seven children: Charles (1869-1894), Stephen (1871-1922), Nettie (1872-1948), John W. (1877-1915), Joseph R. (1879-1962), Andrew (1881-1929), and Jennie (1885-1947) Thompson.

After being married just a little over a month, Itha rode a horse from Delphi, in Carroll county, Indiana to Indianapolis and enlisted for the Civil War on March 7, 1864. He sold the saddle he had taken with him and then turned his horse loose since there was no sale for it. He served as a private in Union Company 1, 77th Regiment, 4th Indiana Cavalry. He was injured during the war. Itha was discharged on July 22, 1865 at Edgefield, Tennessee.

The United States Federal Census shows Itha and

family living in Pine, Benton, Indiana in 1870, and in Dear Creek, Carroll, Indiana in 1900-1930

In September 16, 1881 Itha Thompson was awarded a contract to saw and put the wood in the basement of the Delphi court house for its use there. He received sixty cents per cord.

Itha was granted a pension on July 1, 1895 for his service in the Union army during the Civil War. *The Indianapolis News* on August 20, 1898 published a list of those receiving pensions. It was reported from Washington, D. C. that pensions had been granted to Indiana people as follows: Original:

William T. Arnold, New Albany
Ezra S. Kelley, Winchester
Anthony Sweigart, Montpelier

Additional

Itha Thompson, Delphi

At one time Itha's pension was \$8. It was later increased to \$10.

On March 6, 1896 Itha and wife Sarah Thompson objected to a report that said they benefited by the construction of the Delphi and Camden Gravel Road. They were being assessed for the construction of it.

In the spring of 1898 Itha and Sarah's son, John, left Delphi to join Company G of the second U. S. Infantry. He took part in the fighting around Santiago. He was discharged on the 26th of July in Cuba due to defective eyesight, caught typhoid fever, and was returned to a hospital in New York.

Sarah Ellis Thompson passed away on September 24, 1903. She was 56 years old.

Itha was hospitalized at the Disabled Soldiers Home in Danville, Illinois from May 11 to July 12 of 1914. This was a result of his Civil War injuries.

The June 27, 1925 issue of *The Delphi Citizen* reported the following: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thompson, little Josephine Morrow, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Eding and Itha Thompson were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Scearcy, of Indianapolis. Joseph Thompson was Itha's son.

Itha Meril Thompson died at the age of 87 at 3:30 o'clock on Tuesday March 22, 1932 after a 4 month long illness. He was at the home of his daughter, Jennie Tyler, in Mortonville, Indiana.

THE HOOSIER PACKET - NOVEMBER 2015

Itha's memorial service was at 2 o'clock on Thursday, March 24, 1932. at the Grimm Funeral Home. The Reverend Benjamin Rist of the Delphi Methodist church officiated followed by interment in Morning Heights Cemetery (also known as Milroy Cemetery or Old Delphi Cemetery) in Deer Creek, Carroll county, Indiana. The American Legion furnished pallbearers and a firing squad came from the National Guard.

Itha was preceded in death by his wife Sarah and children Stephen, John, Andrew and Charles. He was survived by daughters Mrs. Russell (Jennie Thompson) Tyler, Mrs. William (Nettie Thompson) Widner, and son Joseph Thompson, all of Delphi.

On Wednesday December 22, 1932 the Governor Morton Circle Ladies of the G.A.R. held memorial services for three Civil War veterans. They were: George Johnson, Jeremiah Thornell, and Itha Thompson.

On August 17, 1950, Itha's granddaughter, Letha Thompson Isaacs was recognized on his behalf at the Delphi Old Settlers Celebration with a Centennial Certificate recognizing his contribution to the economic/political development of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

Sources:

Ancestry.com Public Member Trees

Jervis, Madonna family tree

Civil War Index: http://www.civilwarindex.com/army/soldiers/77th_in_regiment_ (pages 259-261)

Find-A-Grave #131431160 Itha M. Thompson

Indiana Marriages 1811-1959 Carroll 1859-1867 Vol. 5 Image 142

Mayhill, Dora Thomas. *Old Wabash & Erie Canal in Carroll County*. Knightstown, IN: Banner Publishing Co., 1953.

Newspapers:

The Delphi Citizen

"Ithica Thompson, 97, To Be Buried Thursday," Thursday, March 24, 1932.

"Ladies of the G.A.R.," Thursday, December 22, 1932.

The Delphi Journal

"Itha Thompson, 87, Died Here Tuesday," Thursday, March 24, 1932.

"Judge Smith Tells of Building of Old Canal," Thursday, August 17, 1950.

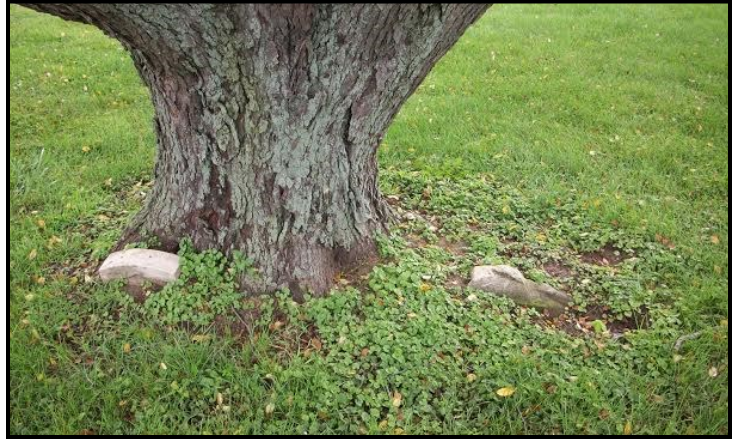
The Delphi Times

Friday, September 18, 1881.

The Indianapolis News

"Indiana Pensions," August 20, 1895.

"Pensions to Increase," July 1, 1895.



Top: Itha and Sarah Thompson are thought to be buried at the base of this tree in the Morning Heights Cemetery.

Bottom: Morning Heights Cemetery is also known as the Milroy Cemetery and the Old Delphi Cemetery.

Top Photo by Larry Leach Bottom Photo by R. B. S. Fine

The Logansport Pharos - Tribune

Thursday Evening, March 24, 1932.

United States Federal Census Records: 1850, 1900, 1910, 1930

Special thanks to Madonna Jervis for her research on Itha Thompson and his family. Mark Smith, CSI member from Brookston, Indiana sent this research to CSI headquarters.

ITHA MERIL THOMPSON'S FAMILY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Place</u>
Thompson, George	12-24-1812	Vermont	5-18-1892	Bushy Chapel	LaGrange IN		
m1. Butts, Caroline F.	1820	Pennsylvania	1848	Bushy Chapel	LaGrange IN	5-06-1837	
Thompson, Marshall	11-15-1838	LaGrange IN	10/31/1905				
Thompson, George W.	1840	LaGrange IN					
Thompson, Itha Meril	2-10-1845	LaGrange IN	3-22-1932	Morning Heights	Carroll Co. IN	1-25-1864	Carroll Co. IN
m. Ellis, Sarah	2-26-1846	Hancock IN	9-24-1903	Morning Heights	Carroll Co. IN	1-25-1864	Carroll Co. IN
Thompson, Charles A.	8-29-1869	Benton Co. IN	9-25-1894	Lewis Creek	Shelbyville IN		
Thompson, Stephen	1-22-1871	Logansport IN	6-12-1922	Locust Grove	Champaign IL		
m. ?, Jennie L.	1885	Illinois	1962				
Thompson, Nettie	12-22-1872	Battleground IN	3-24-1948	IOOF Memorial	Delphi, IN	11-28-1889	
m. Widner, William	4-16-1865	Battleground IN	11-05-1949	IOOF Memorial	Delphi IN	11-28-1889	
Thompson, John W.,	2-??-1877	Carroll Co IN	2-09-1915	Morning Heights	Carroll Co. IN		
Thompson, Joseph R.	8-01-1879	Battleground IN	4-16-1962	Morning Heights	Danville IL	6-30-1909	
m. Eding, Isadora E.	9-02-1881	Lafayette IN	7-09-1961	IOOF Memorial	Carroll Co. IN	6-30-1909	
Thompson, Andrew	9-26-1881	Carroll Co IN	8-11-1929	Morning Heights	Carroll Co. IN	11-13-1917	
m. Hayden Hester Marie	4-05-1897	Pittsburg IN	2-??-1970	Masonic	Delphi IN	11-13-1917	
Thompson, Jennie	5-31-1885	Monon IN	11-29-1947	IOOF Memorial	Carroll Co. IN	2-17-1911	
m. Tyler, John Russell	12-01-1883	Delphi IN	7-28-1946	IOOF Memorial	Carroll Co. IN	2-17-1911	
Thompson, Mary S.	1849	LaGrange IN					
m2. Searles, Cassandra	8-29-1820	Oswego NY	10-27-1882	Bushy Chapel	LaGrange IN	9-10-1848	
Thompson, Emeline (twin ?)	1850	LaGrange IN					
Thompson, Minnie (twin ?)	1850	LaGrange IN					
Thompson, Lettie	1852	LaGrange IN					
Thompson, Dora	1854	LaGrange IN					
Thompson, Charles	1855	LaGrange IN					

Compiled from Madonna Jervis Public Member Tree on Ancestry.com, Find-A-Grave, and U.S. Census Records by Bob & Carolyn Schmidt