

It Came to Me in a Dream

by Bonnie Farver

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I started genealogy in about 1983, when my father-in-law kept getting a reunion card for the Farver Reunion. He said we weren't related to the Farvers in Berwick (he lived in Bloom), so I said let's go and see if we were related. The lady to whom this anecdote refers, Helen Wichart from Michigan, was there the week before the reunion but had left for home. She had left family group sheets with Lois Laubach. We looked at them and there was Don's dad Melvin's father, Walter, listed as a son of Elijah Farver.

I wrote to Helen, and we became pen pals, me being her legs in Columbia County to help fill in the blanks in her charts.

She wrote, "This is how I found Elijah's obit in the Unionville Crescent, Unionville, Tuscola County, Michigan."

I had a dream of an old man walking up the sidewalk to the back porch of my home, (in Bay Port, MI). I saw a package on the porch floor. Something was wrapped in old newspaper. The man opened it, and it had a pair of Civil War shoes in it. I could see the writing of the newspaper (name of the newspaper and its date), and saw the obit for Elijah Farver. I went to the newspaper and found the obituary.

Bonnie's note: She sent me a handwritten copy, with no date of the paper.

Unionville Crescent, Unionville, Mich., Undated:

Elijah Farver, who was taken ill 2 weeks ago, passed away, Monday night, Feb. 14, a little after mid-night, aged 84 years, 2 months, & 5 days. Last Saturday, he suffered a severe stroke of paralysis and failed rapidly.

Elijah Farver was born in Columbia Co. PA, Dec. 10, 1836. In Nov. 1863 he enlisted in the 1st Michigan Cavalry, Co. A at Mt. Clemens (Mi.) and went directly to Washington D. C. In 3 weeks he was

sent to the front for guard picket duty. He fought in several battles among them being the 7 days Battle of the Wilderness, where over 29,000 soldiers were killed, wounded and missing. Many of the soldiers on both sides of the war were burned to death. In the fall of 1864 he was with General Custer under Sherman when they destroyed the railroads at Trevilians Station. He was injured at the Battle of Cedar Creek (VA). Later when Stonewall Jackson was in Texas, Mr. Farver's brigade was ordered to Texas. As Jackson had surrendered when they reached Leavenworth, Kansas, the brigade was sent to Utah to fight Indians and Mormons. A purpose for which they had not enlisted. While there he witnessed the building of the great Mormon Temple, which was afterwards burned.

Mr. Farver came to this place in April 1866 and on April 14, 1869 was married to Miss Jerusha Brown, who died a few months ago. He has been a familiar figure about the streets and a useful citizen. He will be missed among other pioneers who have been called from our midst in the past few years.

He is survived by three sons, James and Walter of PA & Harry with whom he has been living and only one sister, Mrs. Elmyra Howey, of Franklin Grove, Illinois, and a brother, Lloyd Farver, of Ashton, Illinois. His funeral occurred yesterday at the M. E. Church with Rev. Patterson officiating.

The burial took place in the Unionville Cemetery. The pall bearers were Wm. and George Brady, Fred Korte, Wm. Bohn, E. A. Ainsworth and Charles Achenbach.



Elijah Farver