

WAR HERO

DAVID WHITMER & SELLESTEEN WHITMER

CONFEDERATE WAR | CIVIL WAR

The stories we are going to tell are about David and Sellesteen Whitmer who were the sons of Francis Suffare Whitmer and Catharine Delawder. They were born and raised in Hardy County, West Virginia. Their father immigrated from Switzerland. Their brothers also served in the Confederate War: Abraham, Phillip and Adam. They all served in the same Company and apparently were in the same battles together.

DAVID WHITMER

David enlisted in the Confederate Army 4 September 1862. He was wounded in the battle by the Union Forces and put in a hospital there. He said the hospital was a school house in Winchester. As soon as he was able to travel he escaped from the hospital with a friend from the Cove and they made their way back home having to travel at night and hide out during the day. It took them 2 months to go the 60 miles back home. Before they left the hospital, they took some Confederate currency from a desk drawer. The war ended soon after they got home and they never got to spend the money as the Confederate money became worthless.

David had many health issues after the war. As a result of the wound David had he would often spit up blood. The rifle ball in the chest was never removed and would cause him to cough up blood when he did strenuous work. David died as a result of the wound. The account

given by Jackson, David's son, Jackson, states that he was in the field cutting oats with a hand scythe when he started hemorrhaging in his lungs. He started toward the house and evidently became weak and sat down leaning against an apple tree in the orchard near the house where he died.

Jackson said David was a large man of over 6 feet tall and was a hard worker and cared for his family very much. He was a good farmer and provider. One of his great-granddaughters said that David never joined any church but always said that some day the true church would come along and then he would join it. He died 23 October 1891.

SEELESTEEN WHITMER

Seelesteen enlisted in the Civil War on September 30, 1864 in Company B, 18th Virginia Cavalry. It was reported that he was wounded. The letter is herewith showing the original spelling that he wrote to his parents:

"Febury the 3 day 1863, Augusty Co., Va, Dear father, I take this presend opportunity to inform you that we are all well at this presend time. Hoping that when this line come to hand they will find you injoying the same state of health."

"and I hant got no horse yit I had a notion to by Seygers mare but I don't now wether I will git her or not"

"Twenty five of our Company and Scotts Company left this morning but I don't now for curtin where they are going but I ezpect that they are going to Hardy and further. We have drawed our pay and David Whitmer drawed Philips pay and Syhrianus Fitzwater and George Sherman and Samule Delawder was doct of all there wages they didnt git no pay for what they had run off and Philip Whitmer would beter come as soon as he can or write a leter back to let them now what is the reason that he don't come. And I don't want you to send me enny cloth fo I hyve drawed one roundabout and two shirts and Adam drawed two shirts. So no more at presend time But my love to you all."