



BIVOUAC

KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY * P.O. Box 3671 KENT, OH 44240

<https://www.kentcivilwar.org/>

Meeting Hotline (330) 474-9362

“WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET – WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION TO?”

A MEMBER DISCUSSION

SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026, AT 7:30 P.M.

The original speaker we were going to have for April is unavailable. So, we are going to have a discussion. Come prepared to discuss someone in the Civil War you would like to meet, and if you have a question for them, what would it be?

Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at Eddy’s Deli & Restaurant, 4581 Kent Road in Stow, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Who would I like to meet?

I would most like to meet my three veteran grandfathers and ask them why they decided to join in the fight. They had varied lives both before and after the war. One lived in Ohio, the other two in Indiana at the beginning of the conflict.

My paternal great-great-grandfather was James Calvin Shaw (my dad was named after him). He mustered into the 8th Indiana Infantry, Company K, and retained the rank of Private during the war. He was the only one of my grandfathers who was married prior to enlisting, but while he was away, his wife passed away in January 1864, leaving five young children to be looked after by relatives until their father came home. James also had two brothers in the war, both in the 99th Indiana Infantry, Company B, and both of them also died in 1864. Isaac died in August 1864 in Marietta, Georgia and is buried there in the National Cemetery. William died in November 1864 at Camp Sumter, Andersonville, Georgia, and he is buried in Andersonville National Cemetery. James is buried with his second wife in Russiaville Cemetery in Howard County, Indiana.

My maternal great-great-grandfather was Samuel Chesnut. He mustered into the 26th Ohio Infantry, Company B in June 1861. He spent the entire war and beyond in this regiment, mustering out in October 1865 in Victoria, Texas with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Three years after he returned, he married in the one county in Ohio that endured four courthouse fires (Hamilton), destroying the official records. But we do have several interesting items about the wedding – handed down oral history and newspaper articles. It was a triple wedding – three sisters marrying three Civil War veterans.

The third veteran is the one I really, really would like to ask about his decision to enlist. Alexander Brass immigrated from the northernmost Scottish islands, the Orkneys, about 1852, and spent the first years in this hemisphere in Canada working for the Hudson Bay Company. When he joined the 13th Indiana Infantry, Company E, he was not yet a naturalized citizen. So he fought our war as a citizen of Scotland. He was naturalized in Kokomo, Indiana after the end of the war and married an Irish immigrant a year later. He is buried in Crown Point Cemetery in Kokomo.



L-R – James Calvin Shaw, Samuel Chesnut, Alexander Brass