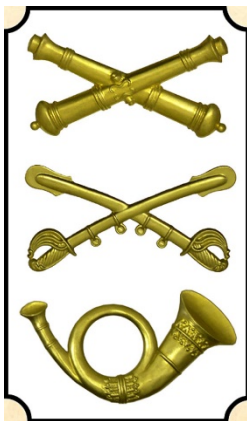


Tobias Caraker, Civil War Veteran Receives a Headstone After 103 Years

The Caraker Clan will be holding a memorial service for Tobias Caraker (born 1833 in Union County, IL and died 1915 in Cape Girardeau, MO) who is just now receiving a headstone after 103 years of his death at Fairmont Cemetery, 835 Caruthers Ave, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 in Cape Girardeau Missouri. Tobias served in the Civil War with the 109th and 11th Illinois Infantry from Union County Illinois. After the family found that he never received his military headstone and knowing he served almost 3 years in the Civil War (14 Aug 1862 to 14 Jul 1865), his great grandson, William Caraker, submitted the necessary paperwork to the United States War Department to obtain a headstone. His great granddaughter (3X), Tammy Jetton, contacted the Missouri State Honor Guard, who agreed to provide full military honors at the gravesite. Also, Father Allan Saunders from Cathedral of St Mary of the Annunciation in Cape Girardeau was so gracious to agree to bless the grave (Grave 8, Lot 22, of the old section of the cemetery) and provide a small memorial service in the old section of the cemetery on 25 May at 11 am. The Turner Brigade also volunteered to attend in period uniforms and costumes, and the Sons of Union Veterans agreed to attend and honor Tobias's service for his country. All schools and residents are welcome to attend.



Tobias, along with 3 brothers, helped the Union Army siege Vicksburg. See the book, which is free domain, on Illinois at Vicksburg at the following link, <https://archive.org/details/illinoisatvicksb01illi/page/122>. Two of the brothers, Henry and Samuel were in the same infantry, while Elijah was in the 31st Illinois Infantry that enlisted at Anna, Illinois. All 4 soldiers are listed on an Illinois monument at the National Military Park in Vicksburg. Tobias mustered out in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and picked up their last paycheck in Springfield Illinois. Henry was the exception. He became ill during a campaign in

Tennessee and returned home sick and died in 1864, the same year his father Jacob died.



Tobias had fourth brother in the Civil War named James. James died during the war in Memphis, Tennessee and is buried at the Memphis Military National Cemetery. He served in the 6th US Illinois Cavalry. He never made it home.

Jacob, the father of these 5 Union soldiers, served in the war of 1812 and migrated from North Carolina to Illinois between 1816 and 1818, being among the first pioneers of Southern Illinois, before it became a state. They arrived before the Indians were removed and placed on reservations. As a matter of fact, Jacob's son, Elijah was married to Dollie Lence who was an Indian, and who bore him five children. Dollie Lence Caraker is also buried at Fairmont Cemetery where Tobias will be receiving military honors and buried in the same area.

This family has had a long history of military service to the United States. Jacob's father Andrew Carriker, originally Karcher, supported the Revolutionary war through buying a land grant and taking an Oath of Allegiance. North Carolina was the first state to make this oath.

Andrew's father Johann Phillip Karcher (later shown as Kerker) served in the Revolutionary War as a secret service messenger or scout. He served from the Lower Fort in Schoharie County, New York and was captured at Moak's Hallow with Lieutenant Borst and Sergeant Kniskern. He was released after the war was over.

Andrew's brother, George Kariker (Karcher) born 1752 in Philadelphia County, PA was a soldier during the Revolutionary War and fought with the Mecklenburg County Regiment for four years from 1775 to 1779. He was a private under the following commanders: Captain Barringer, Major John Phifer, Colonel Thomas Polk, Captain James Jack, Lt. Colonel Archibald Lytle, Captain Phylar, Captain

Stains, Colonel Will Davidson, Captain Christopher Goodwin, and Colonel Francios DeMalmedy (NC Light Dragoons).

This family is honored on the Illinois Genealogical Website with related documents and pictures posted for your enjoyment at <https://union.illinoisgenweb.org/familycaraker.htm>. May our soldiers know that they are loved and remembered for their patriotic service given to this country. Peace comes at a price of their great sacrifice. May they all rest in peace.