

John Mayhugh

On all documentation John states he was born in Chillicothe Ohio on June 17, 1817 in the city of Chillicothe Ohio. The only Mayhugh during this time frame is a William G. Mayhugh. We have researched this Mayhugh and found he maybe the family line but we have no documentation. I found this posting on the Internet and tried to get an e-mail reply with out success.

Posted 2003

I am seeking any additional information on William G. Mayhugh born June 1783 in PA he died Feb 12, 1838 in Chillicothe, Ohio. He is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Chillicothe, Ohio. His first wife was Catherine M (Katty) born in 1788. Son Brison born in 1810 Catherine died in childbirth in 1812. The child Mary died one month later. In 1813 William G. Mayhugh married Ann T. Fleming born in 1796. They had 10 children I only have two names Stephen born in 1821 and my Great, Great, Grandfather John born June 17, 1817 in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Can anyone help with history on William's parents or the eight other children?

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The family story is John's father died and his mother remarried and John's stepfather was mean and this caused family strife, so John left home. Len Mayhugh of Paducah said John had 2 or 3 brothers. Len also said, John took a flat boat down the Ohio River to Smithland Kentucky. In our research we found a marriage license issued to John Mayhew (Mayhugh) and Nancy Catherine Vining (Vinson) on December 10, 1840. In Smithland Livingston County, Kentucky. Court House. Nancy's father Uriah Vining (X) signed the License. John's occupation was listed as an Engineer. An Engineer could be a Steamboat Engineer or Blacksmith engineer (Tool & Die Maker, Etc.). At this time period Smithland was a large Steamboat town and shipyard.

We have not found an 1840 U. S. Census of John. He possibly was on the river and was missed.

The 1850 U. S. Census listed John Mayhugh: page 336, line 196.

Name	born	where	father	mother	Occupation
John Mayhue	1817	Indiana	PA	PA	Engineer
Nancy	1818	KY	TN	TN	Keeping house
Lewis Vinon	1840	KY	?	KY	

Lewis was less then one year old when John and Nancy were married. Not much is known of Lewis. Leonard Mayhugh of Smithland, said, Lewis moved to Missouri and died with some wealth. When John said he was born in Indiana. This tells us he may have lived in Indiana before 1840. In all other U. S. Census he states he was born in Ohio. And his parents were born in Pennsylvania.

The first child of John and Nancy was Andrew Bethel born 1851. While in Chillicothe we noticed there was a large Bethel family. Is the name Bethel taken from family or friends?

The second child born to John and Nancy was Matthew Lewis born 7 Feb 1856.

The third child was Charles William born 1860 most of Charles descendents still live in the Eddyville area.

The fourth child was Joseph Styles born 1862.

In the 1860 U. S. Census John Mayhugh was listed living in Eddyville KY. He was living in a boarding house; this family was not listed as living there. Occupation Blacksmith in this area of Kentucky in Eddyville they had Steamboat ship yards also. Near by in Confederate Kentucky there was a large rolling mill company. We do not know whom he was working for and where the family was at this time. In 1862 Nancy died in Eddyville. Stated by Rowena Grimmer Mayhugh in 1897 in a General Affidavit. (The soldier's first wife. NANCY MAYHUGH died at Eddyville in Dec. 1861). She was not correct on the year, because Joseph was born in 1862. Nancy has no stone marker so her gravesite location is unknown. We feel Nancy was still living in Smithland in 1860. John was most likely relocating.

After Nancy's death John had to have someone to take care of his young children. We feel Rowena Grimmer Ervin or Erwin was taking care of the children. She was a widow. Her husband David Ervin (Erwin) was killed early in the WAR OF THE REBELLION near Dover Tennessee. While constructing telegraph lines.



On 1 June 1864. John volunteered in the U. S. Navy as an Arm-mate (Armaments Mate). He was taken to Louisville Kentucky for training or signing up. While in Louisville. The Military found he was an experience Steamboat Engineer. He was a commissioned. **ACTING SECOND ASSISTANT ENGINEER.** Mississippi Squadron Tenth District.



Assigned to the USS FAIRPLAY a Class Four Tin Clad Paddle Wheel Steamer Gunboat. This Steamer was a captured Confederate Steamer. Armament 8 Cannon.

The family history says John lost the sight of one eye (Left) during the battle of Fort Donelson Tennessee near Dover. The FAIRPLAY did not engage in this battle. The battle of Fort Donelson was Feb. 14 1862. John would have had to be aboard another boat. Are in the Army to be at Fort Donelson. Have not researched this area.

John's gunboat paroled on the Tennessee River between Mound City Illinois and Muscle Shoals AL and on the Cumberland River with escort duty on the same rivers as well as the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers using the Navy Yard in Mound City Illinois as home port and stopping in Memphis, Nashville, St. Louis, Jefferson Barracks Missouri, Smithland, Eddyville and Paducah.

While on a 10-day leave in October 1864. John went to Eddyville Kentucky and married Rowena Ervin, (Erven or Irwin) Oct. 9 1864. We feel Rowena was taking care of John's children in Eddyville. John was 47 and Rowena was 18. John knew the Grimmer's from Smithland. He was a witness at the wedding of Patrick Michael O'Brien and Tennessee (Temperance) Grimmer at the Brides Fathers home on April 2, 1861. Tennessee is Rowena's sister.

After the war John was honorably discharged on 21 Oct. 1865. John spent one year four months and 21 day in the Navy. One year was served aboard the USS FAIRPLAY. He returned to Eddyville. Later the family moved back to Smithland and in 1880 moved back to Eddyville.

In 1868 John and Rowena had their first child Annette (Nette). In 1870 they had their second child Lucinda (Lou). In 1874 they had a third child Maggie (Meg). In 1880 they had the fourth child Oliver Charles (OLLIE) born in Eddyville.

John and Rowena lived in Eddyville until the middle or late 1880's then sometime in the eighteen eighties. John and family moved to Paducah, they resided at 535 Second St. while living there John applied for a Military Pension and it is from this we have John's History.

John Mayhugh, who served the full period of ninety days in the military (Marines). John enlisted in Eddyville; Lyon County Kentucky on the First day of June 1864 as a 2nd assist Engineer Mississippi Squadron. His rank was 1st Lieutenant. He was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant at Cairo Illinois on the October 26, 1865.

His personal description at the time he enlisted was as follows: Age 45 years, Height 5 feet 6 inches, Complexion dark, Color of hair dark, color of eyes Hazel. Was born in Chillicothe Ohio. Occupation when enlisted Blacksmith and Engineer. His disability at time of application is Rheumatism. Application signed by John Mayhugh 4th day of August 1890.

Sometime in 1891 Rowena and family moved to St. Louis. John followed a short time later. In the 1892 city directory John was listed as a blacksmith, but the next year 1893 he was listed without an occupation.

John Mayhugh lived in St. Louis for 5 years. Occasionally visiting his children in Kentucky. We feel while on one of these visits he died of heart failure on February 12, 1897. William Mayhugh told Bill, Hallie and Ina Mayhugh that John is buried in the Cemetery in Smithland location unknown.

It is said during the war John was posted on the cemetery hill where he could see both the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. Watching for confederate boats. When one was seen he would return to the FAIRPLAY, which was hiding in a creek next to the river. They would steam out and engage the other boats.

The Mayhugh's in Kentucky and Tennessee said John was a riverboat captain around 1850. This has not been proved 1995. RW 1995.