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February 10th, 2022



Dear [REDACTED]

Enclosed is the report for James Curtis Field and Josephine Daniels Field, both buried in the Gualala Cemetery. While researching this couple, there were **stark inconsistencies** found with James' obituary and the military order for his headstone. Research found that the couple was from New Hampshire and that James' was much younger than his obituary stated. The order for his headstone provides that James was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, which is in Manchester, Mendocino Co., California, and at the same time, states Gualala, California.

Given the inconsistencies, records were examined very carefully to ensure that the family unit was correct, the burden of proof is that he is buried in the Gualala Cemetery.

Notes: In 1905, in New Hampshire, all vital records from years prior were transferred onto cards and sent to the state, those records, created sometimes over a hundred years after the events took place, can have transcription errors and it is very common to find missing information on these documents. Also, there were two other men, who went by the same name as the subject, living in the time and places that the family lived: another James C. Field that lived in Northern California, and Jerome C. Field, who lived in Cheshire County, NH that went by JC Field as well. Many newspaper mentions were omitted from this report, as they could not clearly be assigned to any of the JC Fields.

Enclosed are:

- Key documents
- Timeline
- Sketches
- Research report
- Research log

Unfortunately, there are no living descendants of this couple. Their daughter, Frankie, did not have any children. If responses are received based on inquiries made surrounding distant relatives of the couple, I will forward them to you.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Richardson".

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OBJECTIVE:

The objective for this report is to trace the life of James Curtis Field and verify basic vital events, for him and his family; to determine if there are any living descendants.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

James Curtis Field is buried in the Gualala Cemetery located in Mendocino County, California. The Gualala Cemetery Plot Map provided by the client shows that James Curtis Field was born in 1843 and died in 1897.

LIMITATIONS:

- New Hampshire vital records are available online, however the State Archives copies were all constructed transcriptions done in 1905, decades after the events took place.
- Original town records for Keene and Chesterfield, Cheshire County, New Hampshire are not available online.
- No DNA test results were made available for this report.

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FIELD FAMILY SUMMARY

James Curtis "J.C" Field, a native of New Hampshire, was born 6 September 1843 in Chesterfield to Bethuel Field II and Sophronia Allen. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Army of the Potomac under Lt. Greene (later General Greene) and was assigned to Company C of the 17th Regiment Infantry. He sustained injuries, presumably during the Battle of Fredericksburg, a particularly hard fight for the Union. After recovering at the West Philadelphia Hospital, he was discharged on 20 January 1863. His brother, Francis "Frank" Field, also served alongside him.

After his selfless service in the Civil war, James married Josephine Daniels (b. March 1840) of Keene, New Hampshire. The couples only child, Francis "Frankie" Josephine Field (b. 22 May 1868), was born to them in New Hampshire, before the family moved west.

Arriving in Northern California around 1875, the Field family lived briefly in Oakland, before settling in Silveyville, a now deserted town in western Solano County. In 1882, the family moved to Whitesboro, a small community, south of Albion, where James presumably worked for L.E. White. After spending about a year in the Seattle area in 1890, during the shingle-mill boom, the family moved back to the coast and resided in Gualala. James was killed in a tragic accident while working in the Gualala Mill and died on 16 March 1897.

Josephine Daniels Field was part of the fifth generation of the Daniels family to grow up on what is known today as Stonewall Farm, in Keene, New Hampshire. She was the daughter of James Daniels and Hannah Sprague Wilder.

After her husband's death, Josephine moved to San Francisco with her daughter, Frankie. She lived in the Bay Area until her death in 1902. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Gualala Cemetery. Frankie married Adam W. Kirk, a native of England, and had no children. Both the Field and Daniels families have roots in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

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BIRTH OF JOSEPHINE DANIELS

Josephine Daniels was born in March 1840 in Keene, New Hampshire to James Daniels and Hannah Sprague Wilder.¹ She was part of the fifth generation of the Daniels family to grow up on what is known now as Stonewall Farm². Her birth record does not provide a birthdate for Josephine but does provide that she is the 4th child of James and Hannah Daniels. This birth record was created by the town of Keene, New Hampshire on 26 Dec 1905, approximately 65 years after her birth.³

The 1850 U.S. Federal Census is the first census that lists all family members in the household, and not just the head of the household. Even though Josephine was likely alive at the time of the 1840 Census, she would not be listed as a member of the household. The 1850 U.S. Census for the household for James and Hannah Daniels, provides that Josephine is 11 years of age.⁴ The 1860 Census provides that Josephine is 20 years of age and working as a dressmaker.⁵ The 1870 Census shows Josephine is 36 years of age and living with James Field, however in examining the census record, it would appear that she was 30 years old, and it is mis-indexed. These documents consistently support her birth in either 1839 or 1840.⁶

The 1900 U.S. Federal Census, the first census to provide additional birth information shows that Josephine was born Mar 1840. This would be consistent with previous documents examined.⁷

SUGGESTED RESEARCH:

- Locate town records (offline) for Keene, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire and examine for a birth record for Josephine Daniels.
- Locate church records (offline) for Keene, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire and examine for a baptism record for Josephine Daniels.

¹ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, San Francisco, California, population schedule, household of Josephine Field, 3512 Twenty-First Street, dwelling #73, family #74, image 7 of 28, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.; *also*, New Hampshire Birth Index, 1659-1900, database, Josephine Field (no date), Ancestry, (ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records.

² StonewallFarm.org

³ New Hampshire Birth Index, 1659-1900, database, Josephine Field (no date), Ancestry, (ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records.

⁴ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Keene, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 116a, household for James Daniels, image 51 of 81, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

⁵ 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Keene, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 46, household for James Daniels, image 50 of 113, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

⁶ 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 32, household for James Field, image 32 of 33, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

⁷ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, San Francisco, California, population schedule, household of Josephine Field, 3512 Twenty-First Street, dwelling #73, family #74, image 7 of 28, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

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- Examine birth records and construct birth dates for Josephine's siblings to confirm her date of birth.

BIRTH OF JAMES C. FIELD

A birth record was found for James Curtis Field, showing that he was born on 6 Sep 1843 in Chesterfield, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire, to Bethuel Field II and Sophronia Allen. This record was not created at the time of his birth, it was transcribed from original town records on 5 Dec 1905, and archived with the State of New Hampshire.⁸

The 1850 U.S. Census record for the household of Bethuel and Sophronia Field, show that "Curtis Field" is 7 years old. Also appearing in this household is James' brother Francis "Frank" at 10 years old, who later served in the military with him.⁹ The 1860 Census shows "James" is 16 years old and living in the household of Bethuel and Sophronia Field. No other siblings are still living in the household.¹⁰ In the 1870 Census, James, 26 years old, is found living with his wife, Josephine. These Census records consistently support that James was born on the date recorded on his reconstructed birth record.¹¹

SUGGESTED RESEARCH:

- Locate town records (offline) for Chesterfield, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire and examine for a birth record for James C. Field.
- Locate church records (offline) for Chesterfield, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire and examine for a baptism record for James C. Field.

⁸ New Hampshire Birth Index, 1659-1900, database, James C Field (no date), *Ancestry*, (ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records.

⁹ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 148a, household for Bethuel Field, image 33 of 40, *Ancestry.com* (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

¹⁰ 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 589, household for Bethuel Field, image 28 of 37, *Ancestry.com* (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

¹¹ 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 32, household for James Field, image 32 of 33, *Ancestry.com* (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

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MILITARY SERVICE FOR JAMES C. FIELD

James C. Field and his brother Francis (Frank) enlisted with Lt. Greene (later Commander Greene), of the 17th Infantry Regiment, Army of the Potomac, in Keene, New Hampshire on 16 Sep 1861.¹²

Assigned to Company C, James fought in the siege of Yorktown. Company C was involved in the Gaines Mill and Malvern Mill battles, and then engaged at 2d Bull Run. The company continued to fight at Antietam, Sheperdstown, Leetown, and Fredericksburg.¹³

Fredericksburg was the most trying battle for the Army of the Potomac. The six-day battle lasted from 11-15 of Dec 1862. For an entire day on 14 Dec 1862, the men of the 17th Infantry laid flat on their faces eighty yards in front of the famous stone wall, behind which the enemy was posted in large numbers; and any movement on their part was sure to draw the fire of the rebel sharpshooters.

On 15 Dec, the Army of the Potomac, withdrew to its camps at Falmouth. The Union Army suffered 13,000 casualties in this battle. Company C however, lost their captain, had two men killed, and nineteen men wounded.¹⁴

After Fredericksburg, the army went into winter camp at Potomac Creek, and reorganized. The company did not enter battle again until the "Mud March" on 20 Jan 1863.¹⁵

It is presumed that James was one of the soldiers injured in the Battle at Fredericksburg. "J.C. Field, 17th Infantry" was listed in a New Hampshire newspaper as being treated at the

¹² U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, vol. A-G, entry for James C. Field, image 577-634, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed 2 Feb 2022); citing National Archives microfilm publication M233.

¹³ "The Army of the US Historical Sketches of Staff and Line with Portraits of Generals-in-Chief, Seventeenth Regiment of Infantry", *U.S. Army, Center of Military History*, (history.army.mil: accessed 2 Feb 2022).; also, "17th United States Infantry Regiment", *Civil War in the East*, (civilwarintheeast.com: accessed 2 Feb 2020).

¹⁴ "Battle of Fredericksburg", *Britannica*, (Britannica.com: accessed 2 Feb 2020).; also, "17th Infantry Regiment", *Wikipedia* (wikipedia.com: accessed 2 Feb 2020).; also, "The Army of the US Historical Sketches of Staff and Line with Portraits of Generals-in-Chief, Seventeenth Regiment of Infantry", *U.S. Army, Center of Military History*, (history.army.mil: accessed 2 Feb 2022).; also, "17th United States Infantry Regiment", *Civil War in the East*, (civilwarintheeast.com: accessed 2 Feb 2020).

¹⁵ "Soldiers in Philadelphia Hospital", *Independent Democrat*, 29 Jan 1863, p. 3, image copy, *Genealogy Bank*, (genealogybank.com: accessed 2 Feb 2022).

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West Philadelphia Hospital on 15 Jan 1863.¹⁶ Army records show that he was discharged and released from the hospital on 20 Jan 1863.¹⁷

It is not known what became of James' brother Frank, he was listed as a deserter in 1864, and there are no records for him found after that.¹⁸ James named his daughter, Francis, and called her "Frankie" for short. James' siblings each named children after Frank as well, which supports an extreme fondness throughout the entire family for their sibling.

Suggested Research:

- Order James Curtis Fields military file from the National Archives. This would give detailed information surrounding his service. This can be ordered from the NARA website.
- Continue research on Company C, 17th Infantry, Army of the Potomac.

¹⁶ U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, vol. A-G, entry for James C. Field, image 577-634, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed 2 Feb 2022); citing National Archives microfilm publication M233.

¹⁷ "Soldiers in Philadelphia Hospital", *Independent Democrat*, 29 Jan 1863, p. 3, image copy, *Genealogy Bank*, (genealogybank.com: accessed 2 Feb 2022).

¹⁸ U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, vol. A-G, entry for James C. Field, image 577-634, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed 2 Feb 2022); citing National Archives microfilm publication M233.

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THE LIFE OF JAMES CURTIS FIELD AND JOSEPHINE DANIELS

James and Josephine likely married after his service in the war. A record of marriage was not located for James and Josephine, however, there is a note on Josephine Daniels reconstructed birth certificate written by the Keene, New Hampshire, town clerk, that states “Mar. Curtis Field, lives in California”.¹⁹ Her obituary, published in the *San Francisco Call*, stated that her birth name was Daniels.²⁰

A female daughter was born to James and Josephine Field on 22 May 1868 in Chesterfield, New Hampshire. No first name is listed on the birth certificate, but it is noted that this child is the couple’s first child.²¹ The 1870 Census shows that James, Josephine, and Francis are all living together in Chesterfield, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire. Francis is recorded as being two years old, which would support the birthdate recorded in May 1868. The record also shows that James owns his house valued at \$800.²²

The family arrived in California around 1875, when James is found registered to vote in Oakland, Alameda Co., California. In 1876, he is registered to vote in Silveyville, Solano Co., California. Silveyville is a town that no longer exists, in 1865 it had 160 residents, as well as a hotel, store, and blacksmith shop; it was also a very anti-Union Army town, where a man was shot for his support of the Union. By 1890 the town was deserted.²³ The Field family, J.C., Josephine, and Franky, are recorded as living in the town in 1880. The census record is consistent with their birthplaces of New Hampshire; however, “Franky’s” is listed as being California.²⁴

¹⁹ New Hampshire Birth Index, 1659-1900, database, Josephine Field (no date), *Ancestry*, (ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records.

²⁰ “Deaths”, *San Francisco Call*, 22 Jun 1902, p. 3, image copy, *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, (cdnc.ucr.edu: accessed 2 Feb 2022).

²¹ New Hampshire Birth Index, 1659-1900, database, Josephine Field (no date), *Ancestry*, (ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records.

²² 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire, population schedule, p. 32, household for James Field, image 32 of 33, *Ancestry.com* (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

²³ “Once bustling Silveyville a town that disappeared”, *Daily Republic*, 6 Jan 2013, *DailyRepublic* (dailyrepublic.com: accessed 2 Feb 2022).

²⁴ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Silveyville, Solano Co., California, population schedule, p. 490B, household for James Field, image 14 of 39, *Ancestry.com* (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

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In 1882 James C. Field, born in New Hampshire, is registered to vote in Mendocino County. His voter registration notes that he is living in Whitesboro. Whitesboro was an unincorporated community, located approximately one mile south of Albion. The name was bestowed in 1876 after L.E. White, majority owner of the Salmon Creek Mill Company. James was presumably working for L.E. White. In 1888, he is still in the area, registered to vote in the town of Navarro.

In 1890, James C Field, is found living in Township 25, Kings County, Washington. While the 1890 Census was destroyed in a fire at the National Archives, the Veterans Schedule still exists. In this case the veterans schedule provides sufficient detail including that the James C Field listed, a private in the 17th US Infantry, who served from September 1861 – 1863 and was discharged from the hospital; is the same James C Field that is the subject of this report. In the 1890's, Kings County was also heavily involved in the timber industry, wood shingles were being made in the mills along the water and shipped throughout the world.²⁵ His time in Washington was probably short lived, as on 10 Sep 1890 JC Field, from Seattle, was registered at the American Exchange Hotel in San Francisco.²⁶

By 1892, James Curtis Field, has returned to California, and is registered to vote in Gualala, Mendocino Co., California. His voter registration notes that he is missing two fingers off his left hand, which could have been the injury he sustained while in the military.

After James' death in 1897; Josephine is found in the 1900 census, as a widow, living with her daughter, "Frankie" at 3512 Twenty-First Street in San Francisco. This census provides that both Josephine and Frankie were born in New Hampshire.²⁷

Suggested Research:

- Land records in these towns / areas could be examined to find any properties owned by James C. Field.
- James C. Field would have been eligible to receive bounty land for his military service, a search of California, Washington, and Kansas BLM records did not show any bounty land issued to James C. Field. Continued search for his bounty land should continue.

²⁵ 1890 U.S. Federal Census, Township 25, Kings Co., Washington, Veterans schedule, entry for James C. Field, image 1 of 9, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

²⁶ "Hotel Arrivals", *Daily Alta California*, 10 Sep 1890, p. 5, col. 5, image copy, *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, (cdnc.ucr.com: accessed 29 Jan 2022).

²⁷ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, San Francisco, California, population schedule, household of Josephine Field, 3512 Twenty-First Street, dwelling #73, family #74, image 7 of 28, Ancestry.com (Ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing NARA.

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WHEN AND WHERE DID JAMES CURTIS FIELD DIE?

On 16 Mar 1897, James Curtis Field was involved in a tragic accident at a mill in Gualala. His obituary states that he was 70 years of age, a native of Maine, and resided on the coast for many years.²⁸ While this information conflicts greatly with the information examined supporting the life of James Curtis Field, the United States Office of the Quartermaster General, ordered a headstone to be made for James C Field, a private of Company C, 17th Regiment of the United States Infantry. The record for the order of the headstone notes that his death date is 16 Mar 1897. It should be noted that the order states he is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, which is in Manchester, Mendocino Co., California, but the order states Gualala, California. The order for the headstone was contracted on 25 Aug 1902.

Suggested Research:

- Review burial records for the Evergreen Cemetery in Manchester, Mendocino Co., California to ensure that James Curtis Field was not buried there.
- Obtain an official death record, if available from the Mendocino County archives.
- Order the widows pension filed by Josephine Field after her husband's death, her testimony will include marriage, death, and burial information. Application #653260, filed in California.

²⁸ "Fatal Accident at Gualala", *Mendocino Coast Beacon*, 2 Mar 1897, p. 1, col. 4, image copy, *Newspapers*, (Newspapers.com: accessed 29 Jan 2022).

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WHEN AND WHERE DID JOSEPHINE DANIELS FIELD DIE?

On 20 June 1902, Josephine Field, widow, 62 years of age, from New Hampshire died in Alameda County, California of cancer.²⁹ Josephine's obituary also confirms that she died 20 Jun 2901, and was the mother of Frankie Josephine Field, a native of New Hampshire. Aged 62 years.

The obituary also requested that Keene, NH (Josephine's birthplace) and Thayer, Missouri be copied. James C. Field's sister, Mary Ann Field Colburn, lived in Thayer at the time of Josephine's death.³⁰ The obituary states that internment is in Gualala.³¹

A burial permit located for Josephine Field, widow, 62 years of age, from New Hampshire that died at 1013 8th Avenue in Oakland, (Alameda Co.,) California, provides that she was buried in the Gualala Cemetery. The document is signed by Francis Ainslie, Justice of the Peace.

It is presumed that Josephine would probably be buried next to her husband, James C. Field. There is no headstone in the Gualala Cemetery for her, and no existing Find A Grave profile published.^{*32}

Suggested Research:

- Obtain a death certificate from Alameda County for Josephine Daniels Field.

²⁹ "California, Birth, Marriage, and Death Index, 1849-19780", database, Josephine Field (1840-1902), *Ancestry*, (ancestry.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022); citing California Department of Public Health.

³⁰ "Deaths", *San Francisco Call*, 22 Jun 1902, p. xx, image copy, *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, (cdnc.ucr.edu: accessed 2 Feb 2022).

³¹ "Deaths", *San Francisco Call*, 22 Jun 1902, p. xx, image copy, *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, (cdnc.ucr.edu: accessed 2 Feb 2022).

³² *Find A Grave*, database with images, (findagrave.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022).; also, Phone Call from [name redacted] to [name redacted], 1 Feb 2022, Josephine Field burial, notes held by [name redacted], Gualala Cemetery file.

*A Find A Grave profile has been established for Josephine.

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CHILD OF JAMES CURTIS FIELD AND JOSEPHINE DANIELS

James Curtis Field and Josephine Daniels had one child, Francis “Frankie” Josephine Fields, born on 22 May 1868 in Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire.³³ After her mother died, Frankie married Adam W. Kirk, a native of England on 14 Sep 1904. The couple married in Manchester, England, and planned to return to America and make their home in California. Adam and Frankie returned to California in January 1905. Her marriage announcement appearing in the Mendocino Beacon, indicates that she still had close ties to the coast.³⁴

The couple lived in San Francisco, and never had any children. Frankie died on 30 Oct 1931. Her obituary states that she was interred at the Woodlawn Columbarium.

Suggested Research:

- Obtain a death certificate from the San Francisco County Recorder for Francis Josephine Field.
- Confirm burial information with the Woodlawn Columbarium.
- Research the death of Adam Kirk, possibly in Tulare, California.
- Research a possible second marriage of Adam Kirk to Margaret Makintosh.

³³

³⁴ "Married in England", *Mendocino Coast Beacon*, 8 Oct 1904, p. 5, col. 2, image copy, *Newspapers* (newspapers.com: accessed 30 Jan 2022).; also