

A Journey in Time and Distance... aka "feeding my obsession" :)

The West Virginia Civil War Veteran's Medal (1866) awarded to Corporal Jacob McDowell of Company I, 5th Regiment of the West Virginia Volunteer Infantry...



Jacob McDowell, born in Lawrence County, Kentucky in 1843, enlisted with the West Virginia 5th Infantry Regiment and served with the Union forces during the American Civil War (1861-1865).

This is a copy of the 1890 Elliott County, Kentucky Special Census of Union War

Page 1 S. D. 5 E. D. 32 Moccasin

X	3 Bear Lazaras (CONF.)	Priv.	K	5 Ky. Inf.	X
	13 McDowell Jacob	Cpt.	I	5 W. Va. Inf.	
	18 Stephens Nancy J. widow of Wagoner David	Priv.	-	40 Ky. Cav.	

In 1863 Jacob married Sarah Jane Castle (born 1849). It would seem that both Jacob and Sarah lived relatively long and fruitful lives. Jacob died in 1911 and Sarah followed him in 1937...

NAME: <i>McDowell, Jacob</i>				(S-P. A. I.)			
Certificate No. <i>499565</i>		ARMY INVALID.		Law:			
Service: <i>Pt. 25" W. Va. U. S.</i>							
Disability: <i>Dis. of chest & spine, res. of measles.</i>				"Disability of chest and spine, result of measles."			
ISSUES.							
CLASS.	RATE.	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT.	DATE OF CERTIFICATE.	CLASS.	RATE.	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT.	DATE OF CERTIFICATE.
<i>Inc.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>5 April 1905</i>	<i>4 May 1905</i>				
Fees:							
Transferred from: <i>LOUISVILLE, KY.</i>				Transferred to:			
Died: <i>June 28 " 1911 B.S.</i>		Buried notified: <i>July 25 " 1911</i>					
Remarks: <i>Receives Order Dec 5 " 1911 Payable to widow Sarah J. McDowell</i>							
<i>Date of pensioner's death June 28 - 1911</i>							
Former Roll No. <i>6755 Gen. Larr.</i>				Home:			
				6-091			

Both Jacob and Sara are buried at the Mauk Cemetery in Elliott County, Kentucky (Google Earth "Street View")...



I recently (1st of February 2016) purchased the West Virginia Veteran's Medal of Jacob McDowell through an Ebay auction. So how

did the Jacob McDowell West Virginia Veteran's Medal come to be in the hands of Ebay seller "sisterkess" in the state of Michigan?

Here, I surmise, is a possible answer...

Jacob and Sarah McDowell had a son named John A. "Logan" McDowell. Logan McDowell moved to Michigan, married a local girl and established a home and family in that state. I would speculate that Logan inherited his father's medal when either Jacob died in 1911 or Sarah passed in 1937. Logan McDowell would probably have taken the medal to his home state of Michigan.

John A Logan "Logan" McDowell

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<p>Birth: Sep. 24, 1884 Gimlet Elliott County Kentucky, USA</p> <p>Death: Jun. 19, 1969 Central Lake Antrim County Michigan, USA</p> <p>Born John A Logan McDowell son of Jacob McDowell and Sarah Jane Castle.</p> <p>Groom's Name: Logan Mcdowell Groom's Age: 20 years Groom's Birthplace: Ky Bride's Name: Sarah Oliver Bride's Age: 17 years Bride's Birthplace: Ky Marriage Date: 30 Jun 1904 Marriage Place: Charlevoix, Charlevoix, Michigan Groom's Father: Jacob Mcdowell Groom's Mother: Susan! Castle Bride's Father: Garret Oliver Bride's Mother: Vina Shepard Collection: Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925</p>	 <p>Added by: Ralph Edwards</p>  <p>Cemetery Photo Added by: Ralph Edwards</p> <p>Add a photo for this person  Request A Photo </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Photos may be scaled.</p>
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Logan McDowell died in 1969 and probably left his father's Civil War medal to one of his children (he had seven)...

Family links:
Parents:
Jacob McDowell (1843 - 1911)
Sarah Jane *Castle* McDowell (1849 - 1937)

Spouse:
Sarah Ellen *Oliver* McDowell (1889 - 1959)

Children:
Edna Lea *Mcdowell* Meggison (1905 - 1976)*
Hazel Evelyn *McDowell* Simanson (1907 - 1989)*
Eva May *McDowell* Marsh (1909 - 1988)*
Hayward McDowell (1914 - 1986)*
Thelma Olive *McDowell* Empey (1918 - 1991)*
Glenn Lenard McDowell (1922 - 1998)*
Wilma Irene *McDowell* Matyas (1925 - 1985)*

Somehow, the medal ended up in a nearby Michigan garage sale. Here's the reply I received from the Ebay seller "sisterkess"...



New message from: [sisterkess](#) (8,431 )

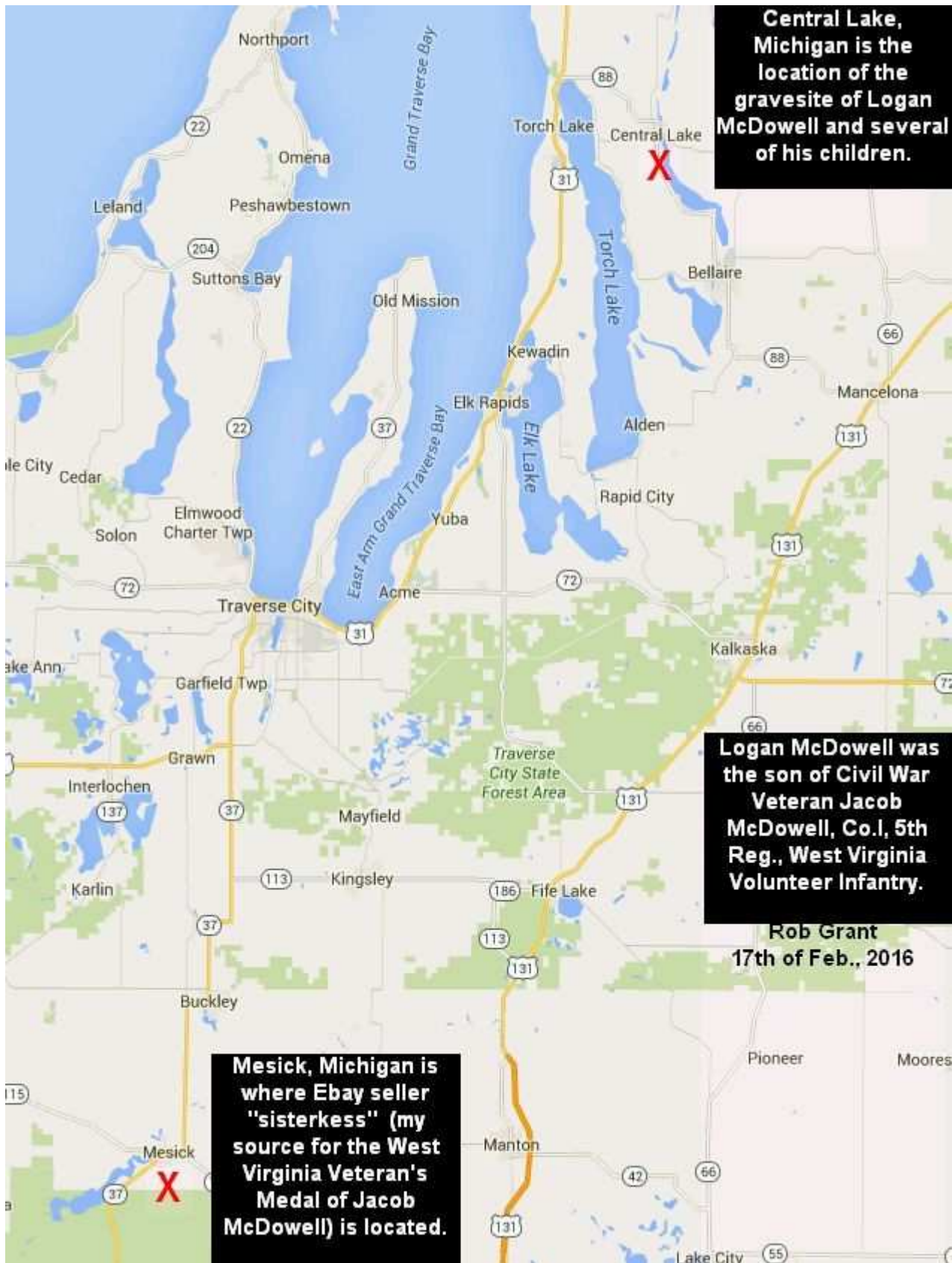
Hi Rob,

Very interesting. I bought it at a garage sale. All I know is the guy at the sale has an abanded storage unit. sorry I wasn't more helpful. have a great !

Sent from my iPhone

[Reply](#)

This map (Google Maps) shows the relationship of the resting place of Logan McDowell and several of his children at Central Lake, Michigan to the Ebay seller "sisterkess" at Mesick, Michigan (roughly 68 miles by road)...



Here's my final reply to "sisterkess"...



New message to: [sisterkess](#)

Donna,

Thanks for replying. To the contrary, you've been really helpful. This is the first time I've been able to track, this far, a "named" Civil War veteran's medal from the recipient of 150 years ago to the present.

Although I've been an Australian citizen for almost forty years, I was born in the United States. Two of my gg grandfathers and my gg grandmother's first husband were veteran's of the American Civil War (Indiana and Ohio). From the few historic items that have been passed down to me by my ancestors, I've learned how important it is to document the provenance of these bits of the past for those those who have and will come after me.

As I said before, you've been a real pleasure to do business with. Have a healthy and happy 2016.

A very satisfied customer in Australia,

Rob



So there in lies the tale of how an object created 150 years ago and issued by the State of West Virginia to a Civil War Veteran that lived in the State of Kentucky ended up here in Australia. Where will it end up next? I'll leave that for some future owner to determine.

Best wishes to all of those that follow,

Rob Grant

Malanda
Queensland, Australia

The 18th of February, 2016