

Samuel Leasure-Lesher

Civil War Veteran

Written by: Tim Duffie
November 16, 2008

As of this writing, accepting any Leshers as family other than those verifiable descendants of Nathan & Rebecca May Catherine Trine Lesher is conjecture on my part. It is, however, conjecture based on some degree of deductive logic from what data sources we have at our disposal.

I am putting this in writing in the event future family research may uncover additional data to verify or deny the accuracy of these deductions.

Once again I am indebted to Tom Kitch for pointing me in the right direction. In a recent e-mail he sent burial records for various cemeteries in Mercer County. We were able to draw several conclusions from these records. Additionally, we traced a little more of the life of Nathan Leasure-Lesher's brother, Samuel Leasure. Two conclusion are of particular interest:

1. Looking at the number of "Leasure" burials in Greenville and Shenango Twp, it appears we may have a large contingent of "cousins" still using the Leasure name. Tom stated that he knew the family of "Susan Alane Leasure", killed shortly after graduating from Greenville High School.

Name	Maiden	Dates	Military	Location	Cemetery
Leasure Abraham,		1770-1861		Shenango Twp	Prebysterian
Leasure Anna E.		1833-1925		Shenango Twp	Haywood
Leasure Anna M.		1852-1915		Shenango Twp	Haywood
Leasure David H.		1881-1911		Shenango Twp	Haywood
Leasure George A.		1916-1975	WWII, Korea	Greenville	Shenango Valley
Leasure John W.		1835-1918	CW	Shenango Twp	Haywood
Leasure Susan Alane		1953-1971		Greenville	Shenango Valley
Lesher Amanda	Robison	1831-1906		Perry Twp	Hadley
Lesher Anna M.	Williman	1862-1942		Pymatuming Twp	Transfer
Lesher Cora	Grimm	1863-1940		Delaware Twp	Delaware
Lesher Daniel J.		1860-1943		Pymatuming Twp	Transfer
Lesher George		1834-1907		Delaware Twp	Delaware
Lesher Katherine		1827-1919		South Pymatuming Twp	Duncan
Lesher Mary		1841-1891		Delaware Twp	Delaware
Lesher Samuel		1834-1878	CW	Perry Twp	Hadley
Lesher William H.		1862-1946		Delaware Twp	Delaware
Lesher William I.		1862-1924		Perry Twp	Hadley

2. It seems obvious that Samuel Lesher, 1834-1878, was the brother of Nathan Leasure-Lesher. Since he was listed as a Civil War Veteran, Tom Kitch suggested I check on Civil War Pension records to see if he was listed. He...

- **Enlisted in Company H, 55th Infantry Regiment Pennsylvania on 27 Jun 1863.**
- **Mustered Out Company H, 55th Infantry Regiment Pennsylvania on 26 Aug 1863.**

He was in the Union Army almost exactly two months. That suggests that he may have been wounded or injured shortly after entering the Union Army. While I found no major battles listed for the

55th Infantry Regiment in 1863, that doesn't preclude the possibility that he was wounded. In any war there are thousands of skirmishes that don't show up in the news.

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s about Abraham Leasure	
Name:	Abraham Leasure
Year:	1777
Place:	Pennsylvania
Source Publication Code:	4629.10
Primary Immigrant:	Leasure, Abraham
Annotation:	Date and place of oath of allegiance. Country of origin, occupation and other historical and genealogical information may also be provided.
Source Bibliography:	LINN, JOHN B. AND WM. H. EGLE. Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2000. 118p.
Page:	31

This immigration record could well be the first of our "Leasure" ancestors to immigrate to Pennsylvania. I have no support documentation at this time. It is something potential future researchers may look into.

The fact that he was wounded or severely injured is substantiated by the application for a Civil War Pension by Amanda Robison Lesher. According to the documented history of the 55th Regiment, beginning October 22, 1862...

The regiment was now stationed at Beaufort, South Carolina, where it remained for more than a year, performing picket duty at Port Royal Ferry, ten miles from the town, and also serving in the capacity of heavy artillery upon the fortifications.

Immediately after the war, pensions were issued only to those soldiers who were severely injured, or to widows of the war.

This Civil War Pension application (right) lists the "55 Pa Mil Inf" unit, the confirmed unit of Samuel Lesher. While I cannot make out the date, it might be as late as 1893 Jun 28. Amanda is listed as "Widow", and we know Samuel died in 1878.

NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Lesher, Samuel</i>				
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Widow: <i>Lesher, Amanda A.</i>		
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Minor:		
SERVICE: <i>No. 55 Pa. Mil. Inf.</i>				
DATE OF FILING	CLASS	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH PAID.
<i>1893 June 28</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>578,987</i>		<i>Pa.</i>
	<i>Widow,</i>			
	<i>Minor,</i>			
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS:				

Samuel & Amanda Lesher had six children:

- Marietta, b 1854
- Amanda A., b 1856
- Harriet B., b 1859
- Sarah, b 1859
- William, b 1861
- Jennie, b 1863

In 1870 Samuel was employed as a Carriage Smith in the Greenville Borough, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. He died in 1878 and is buried in Perry Twp, Mercer County, Hadley Cemetery.