

## Cavanaugh Collection Letters

Guide to the Pvt. James Cavanaugh Archival Collection, Company D, 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. Cavanaugh was drafted on Sept. 21, 1864, and was listed as missing in action March 31, 1865, following the Battle at Gravelly Run, Virginia.

### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Language of Material

Material in English

#### Abstract

This collection consists of 25 documents, the majority of which are Applications for Pension by Pvt. Cavanaugh's widow to aid in the support of herself and surviving 4 children.

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Use Restrictions

No photocopying please

#### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), The James Cavanaugh Document Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

#### Provenance

#### Processing Information

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2011

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. James Cavanaugh was drafted into the Union Army in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on September 21, 1864, and was listed as missing in action on March 31, 1865, at Gravelly Run, Virginia.

### COLLECTION LIST:

Doc. #1 of 25: An undated photo of Catherine Cavanaugh and sons William, Edward, and Thomas.

Doc. #2 of 25: A record from the Sixth Regimental Infantry listing James Cavanaugh from Milwaukee, Wis., as being drafted on September 21, 1864, and missing in action at Gravelly Run, Virginia, on March 31, 1865.

- Doc. # 3 of 25: Description of Benefits (Increase #74806, dated April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1865) for Catherine Cavanaugh, the widow of James Cavanaugh. The document states that Mrs. Cavanaugh is to receive \$8/mo. Beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, with an additional sum of \$2/mo. for each of her children until each child reaches the age of 16 by July 25, 1866.
- Doc. #4 of 25: Certificate #74806, dated June 4, 1866, showing Mrs. Cavanaugh's monthly benefit to increase to \$8/mo. beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865.
- Doc. #5 of 25: This document dated Oct. 25, 1901, shows that Mrs. Cavanaugh's benefits were dropped due to her death on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1901.
- Doc. #6 of 25: A letter dated Dec. 3, 1866, noting the births of the Cavanaugh children and mentioning the death of their youngest child, 2 year old Joseph Francis Cavanaugh, on Feb. 11, 1867.
- Doc.#7 of 25: Application by Catherine Cavanaugh for a Widow's Pension, dated Aug. 31, 1865, which cited the death of her husband at Gravelly Run, Virginia, on March 31, 1865.
- Doc. #8 of 25: Application for a Widow's Pension (from the Act of July 14, 1862, Certificate #74806) by Catherine Cavanaugh received on Aug. 31, 1865, by Attorneys Darius Borbes and M.F. Lascon.
- Doc. #9 of 25: Marriage Licence Document of James Cavanaugh and Catherine Roach dated Oct. 28, 1855. This document was witnessed by Nicholas Nedley, Ms. Margaret O'Neil, and D. Kevny, S.J. It was signed by Pastor S. P. Lalumiere of St. Galls Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 2, 1865 as proof that James Cavanaugh married Catherine Roach.
- Doc. #10 of 25: A Widow's Pension Application Document dated Jan. 23, 1866, and signed by Rev. S. P. Lalumiere, Pastor of St. Galls Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The document stated that Rev. Lulumiere was the "proper custodian of said church". Sworn and signed before Notary Public of Milwaukee County, Fred Reittrock.
- Doc. #11 of 25: A very brief church record signed by an unknown attorney, dated Dec. 18, 1865.
- Doc. #12 of 25: A sworn affidavit statement signed by Sarah F. Austin on July 27, 1865. Ms. Austin personally knew the claimant, Mrs. Catherine Cavanaugh for 10 years in addition to knowing Mrs. Cavanaugh's 3 children and their ages since Mrs. Cavanaugh became a widow. Signed and sworn before Mr. William G. Whipple, Notary Public, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Doc. #13 of 25: Document of Application for Increased Pension by Ms. Catherine

Cavanaugh with purpose of continuing increased financial care for her 3 fatherless children. This document also notes an error in the death date of one child, Joseph Francis, who died on March 3, 1866.

- Doc. #14 of 25: Record of Pension Claim by Catherine Cavanaugh, dated August 31, 1865.
- Doc. #15 of 25: A record of the baptisms of James and Catherine Cavanaugh's children respectively, (Edward Lou, Oct. 19, 1856; Thomas, Nov. 28, 1858; and William Walter, Jan. 27, 1861). Signed by Pastor Igatius M., Pastor of St. Gall's Church, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Doc. #16 of 25: A Claim for Increase of Widow's Pension (certificate #74,806, issued on June 21, 1866) filed by Mrs. James Cavanaugh to support herself and her 3 surviving children, (Edward, Thomas, and William W.). The pension allowance was increased from \$6/mo. to \$8/mo. beginning on April 1, 1865, with an additional \$2 dollars for each of her three children named above to begin on June 25, 1866. Signed by Mr. John S. Kiderly, Examiner.
- Doc. #17 of 25: A Claim for Widow's Pension (from the Act of July 14, 1862) filed by Mrs. Catherine Cavanaugh, widow of James Cavanaugh, Pvt., Co. D, 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers for the care of her 4 children. (Note that this was filed before the death of her son, Joseph Francis who passed away on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1866, as previously mentioned). This filing was admitted on May 24, 1866, to a "Pension of \$8/mo. that was to begin on April 1, 1865. The document was approved and signed by William F. Bascsom, Washington, D.C..
- Doc. #18 of 25: A Widow's Application for an Increase in Pension (under the Act of July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1866) and dated and signed Sept. 24, 1866, by J. M. Miller, Clerk of U.S. District Court. After her appearance in court, Mrs. James Cavanaugh (Catherine), widow, aged 40, was granted an increase in her pension to \$8/mo. to begin on June 4, 1866. During her court appearance, Mrs. Cavanaugh so testified that all 3 of her surviving children were living with her and all were under the age of 16. In addition Mrs. Cavanaugh stated that "she had not remarried nor abandoned the support of any of her children". Present at her hearing were her attorney, M.H. Fitch, and 3 character witnesses, Patrick Markey, Bridget Craig, and D.N. Kassong, respectively.
- Doc.# 19 of 25: A Declaration for a Widow's Pension, (approved from the Congressional Act of July 14, 1862) dated July 27, 1865. Mrs. Catherine Cavanaugh appeared before the Clerk of U.S. District Court of Milwaukee County, Wis. "claiming that all 4 of her children (as mentioned above) were all under the age of 16 and still living under her care". (Edward Lawrence, 9 yrs., Thomas James, 6 yrs., William Walter, 4 yrs. and Joseph Francis, 13 mo.) Mr. Darius Forbes was duly appointed as Catherine

Cavanaugh's attorney to procure the pension for her. Character witnesses present at the pension hearing included Sarah F. Austin, and John N. Stewart, both residents of Milwaukee, Wis. Authorized and signed by J. M. Miller, Clerk, U.S. District Court, Milwaukee, Wis.

- Doc. #20 of 25: A document showing “acknowledgement and verification” that was signed and notarized by Thomas Kerr, Lt. Col., 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. This document certified that Pvt. James Cavanaugh of Co. D, “was fatally wounded” on March 1, 1865, at the battle of Gravelly Run, Virginia, and Mr. Cavanaugh “died on the field”. Dated July 27, 1865.
- Doc. #21 of 25: A Widow's Application for an Increase of Pension (from the Congressional Act of July 25, 1866) by Mrs. James (Catherine) Cavanaugh, 40 years old, who appeared before the Clerk of Court on Dec. 7, 1866. Mrs. Cavanaugh attested that all 3 of her named children (Edward L., Thomas J., and William W.) “were under the age of 16 and living at home with their mother on 312 Fowler St., Milwaukee, Wis.” Also in appearance were 2 character witnesses, Ms. Courtney Egan and Ms. Mary Summers who vouched for the truth of Mrs. Cavanaugh's character and testimony. Witnessed and signed on Dec. 7, 1866, by James M. Farlin, Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court, District of Wisconsin.
- Doc. #22 of 25: An Application for Pension (Certificate #107,640) dated May 17, 1866, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., and signed by Breek, Assistant Adjutant General. This document gave the dates of enlistment, terms of service, and cause of death of Pvt. James Cavanaugh.
- Doc. #23 of 25: A document of Jan. 31, 1867, stating a discrepancy that Mrs. James Cavanaugh made regarding her statements on the births of her 3 children. This discrepancy of asserted facts and dates was largely believed to be Mrs. Cavanaugh's inability to read, write and sign her own name. This document also went on to assert that Mrs. Cavanaugh's inaccurate information given may have resulted from her poor memory. Sworn and signed by character witnesses, D. N. Kassen, and J. V. Brown and James M. Farlin, Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court, U.S. District of Wisconsin, Jan. 31, 1867.
- Doc. #24 of 25: Document known as Notice of Pensioner Dropped (certificate # 74806). The document mentions the last date on which Mrs. Cavanaugh was paid a pension of \$12 due to her death. This document was dated Jan. 23, 1901, and signed by “F.D.”, Pension Agent.
- Doc. #25 of 25: A document showing photos of different locations of Poplar Grove National Cemetery including S52 White Oak Rd.