

George Wren

Wren Collection Letters

Guide to the Pvt. George Wren Archival Collection, 13<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry. He enlisted in Company B, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment, United Infantry on November 17, 1864. Mr. Wren was born in Albany, New York in 1849, and passed away on June 23, 1865 at Keokuk General Hospital in Keokuk, Iowa. He was laid to rest at Keokuk, Iowa National Cemetery (internment date unknown).

## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

### Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material  
Material in English

### Abstract

This collection consists of 17 documents, the majority of which are Affidavit attempts by character witnesses who either knew Pvt. George Wren or his father Patrick Wren. In most cases the documents represent the efforts of Pvt. George Wren's father, Patrick, and other character witnesses, to help Mr. Patrick Wren continue to receive a pension from his son's estate. Mr. Patrick Wren was unable to work for a living wage and care for himself due to poor health conditions.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions  
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### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), The George Wren Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin

### Provenance

### Processing Information

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Before he enlisted in the U.S. Army, Mr. George Wren worked the last 3 years of his life on his father's farm in Wisconsin with the intent of being the sole supporter of his father who could not work and take care of himself. His father Patrick Wren survived his son and relied on the combined help of his daughter, Mrs. Annie Lynes and her husband, and the financial pension support of the War Department.

COLLECTION LIST:

Doc. #1 of 17: General Affidavit filed in Oconto County, Wisconsin dated, March 7, 1888 to The Clerk of Circuit Court, a Claim for Pension filed by Mrs. Mary A. Lynch who was acquainted with the Patrick Wren family.

Noteworthy: Mrs. Lynch testified that she was well acquainted with the Patrick Wren and his family for over 30 years.  
Recalled that prior to 1865 Mr. Patrick Wren had been entirely dependent for his livelihood on his son, George due to poor health. Testified that Patrick owned 40 acres of land but could produce nothing without his son George's help.  
Stated that the land was not worth more than \$500 and mortgaged for \$300.  
That son George lived on and worked his father's land for the last 3 years of his life contributing more than 3/4ths of his personal income directly to the support of his father Patrick Wren.

Doc. #2 of 17: General Affidavit filed in Oconto, Wisconsin, on February 7, 1888 for an invalid pension claim for Patrick Wren, father of Pvt. George Wren (deceased) by Mrs. Mary Lynch, 39 years old, and a Mrs. Annie Lynes, aged 43 years, both women were Oconto residents.

Noteworthy: That Mrs. Lynch had been well acquainted with the Wren family 28 years living that entire time as neighbor.  
Swore to the fact that Pvt. George Wren (the son) had never married and had lived with his father the last 3 years of his life. That George (the son) worked the entire time on his father's farm while receiving no wages for his work but only contributing to his father's financial support.  
That the father (Patrick) due to poor health was only able to work a small portion of his time.  
Mrs. Annie Lynes, daughter of Patrick Wren, testified that her brother George never married, and turned all of his wages over to his father (Patrick) the remaining three years of his life. Mrs. Lynes used the words that George felt "duty bound" to help support his father.  
Neither Mrs. Lynch or Mrs. Lynes have a financial interest in the particulars of this case.

Doc.#3 of 17: General Affidavit in the matter of the claim of Patrick Wren, father of Pvt. George Wren who died June 23, 1865, and appeared before a Notary Public. Patrick Wren, 65 years and a resident of Oconto County, Wisconsin, affirmed in this document all the ages of his children in the year 1865 as follows.

Noteworthy: George Wren, 17 years, deceased.  
Annie Wren, 21 years.  
Elizabeth Wren, 13 years.  
Frank Wren, 5 years.  
John Wren, 1 year.  
Also affirmed, that Patrick Wren in 1865 was not strong enough to do heavy work, but could only do light work and was unable to acquire steady employment.  
He was employed as a “finisher of Morocco”, only working this trade in the winter of 1884.  
Until that time he had been living with his daughter Annie and her husband George Lynes.  
Since his son George's death, no one has been legally bound to support him.  
Signed in his hand with an “X” Patrick Wren and in the presence of W.B Mitchell and H. G. Sorenson.

Doc. #4 of 17: From the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., dated March 19, 1886. Addressed to The Commissioner of Pensions.

Noteworthy: That Pvt. George Wren enlisted on November 17, 1864, and was assigned to Company B of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the U.S. Infantry.  
Muster roll archives show November and December, 1864 to April 30, 1865.  
Pvt. Wren was reported, “Present sick” at Camp Sherman, Nashville, Tennessee.  
Muster roll archives of May-June, 1865 reports him: “Absent sick at Nashville, Tennessee since May 4, 1865, the nature of his sickness not stated or given.  
Pvt. George Wren died at Keokuk, Iowa Hospital on June 21, 1865, of “inflammation of the brain”.  
Signed by J.D. Rucker, Second Lieutenant, Second Cavalry.

Doc. #5 of 17: (Part A). In this notification Patrick Wren swears that he presently resides with his son-in-law, Mr. Charles Lynes at Oconto, County of Oconto, Wisconsin, and that he is the same identical person who was treated at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, New York from May 13<sup>th</sup> through July 12, 1884, and from August 5<sup>th</sup> through September 27, 1884 as per hospital records.  
Signed by making his mark (“X”), Patrick Wren.  
Sworn before W. B. Mitchell, Notary Public, Oconto City, Wisconsin.

Doc.# 5 of 17: (Part B, continued) From St. Peters Hospital, dated October 25, 1886. This certifies that Mr. Patrick Wren was treated at St. Peters during the times specified below for the following named diseases, during my term as House Surgeon. Signed, J. A. Fergus, M.D.

Noteworthy: Patrick Wren, aged 64 of #87 Church St., Oconto, Wisconsin was admitted on May 13, 1884 and discharged on July 12, 1884. He was treated for chronic dysentery. He was again admitted on August 5, 1884, and discharged on September 27, 1884.

Doc.# 6 of 17: From the State of New York, a sworn affidavit by Jacob D. Pohlman, dated November 3, 1886, stating that he was personally acquainted with Patrick Wren. He attested that Mr. Wren resided on Van Schaack Street in the city of Albany, New York. Also mentioned that Mr. Wren had a daughter, Annie and that Mr. Wren had no means of employment due to his physical health conditions.

Doc. #7 of 17: (No date specified). From the State of Wisconsin, the city and county of Oconto, Pension Office # 325,628. A General Affidavit for the father of George Wren, Patrick Wren. That Dr. E.F. Panamore swears that he was a practicing physician for 31 years, and known Patrick Wren for 2 years. That he treated Mr. Wren for a medical fever, and treated him a second time in February, 1887, for Chronic Dysentery. Dr. Panamore further attests that for 2 years he had personal knowledge that Patrick Wren's physical condition made it impossible for him to support himself through manual labor.

Doc. #8 of 17: A sworn affidavit by Mr. George Wren, born in Albany, New York, and at the age of 19( but was really only 14) when he voluntarily enlisted as a soldier of the United States the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1864, for a period of 3 years . He also attests to swear allegiance of the United States of America and serve his country honestly and faithfully.

Making his mark ("X") in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 17, 1864, and witnessed by Mr. George Clason before Captain Theodore Coles.

Also signed by B. Knickerbocker, N.P.H., examining surgeon who finds Mr. George Wren "free of all bodily defects and mental infirmities".

Also signed again by Capt. Theo. Coles attesting that Mr. George

Wren was “entirely sober, of lawful age, and duly qualified to preform his duties as an able-bodied soldier.”

George Wren is noted to have blue eyes, dark hair, fair complexion, and is 5 feet four inches tall.

(Editor's Note): Handwritten on the side of this document is a signature to a written agreement that George Wren would substitute himself to miliatry service in place of Mr. Joseph Moffet, effective on November 17, 1864.

Doc. #: 9 of 17: A Declaration for an Original Pension of a Father or Mother.

The State of Wisconsin, the County and City of Oconto, dated April 4, 1885. Appearing before the Clerk of Circuit Court, Mr. Patrick Wren, age 68, applied to obtain a pension by The Acts of Congress. He attested that he is the father of George Wren, who enlisted in the fall of 1864 in the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the U.S. Army. In addition he stated that his son, George, died of exposure while on his way home prior to his offical discharge from the army in 1865. His death occurred in a southern Iowa hospital, and the cause of his death was not known at this time.

Also attested that Pvt. George Wren left neither widow or child under the age of 16 years.

That the declarent, Patrick Wren, (George's father) was married to George's mother on July 15, 1840, by Rev. Father Kelly.

That Patrick Wren was “soley dependent” upon his son for financial support.

That George's mother and Patrick's wife died at Hartford, Wisconsin, in March, 1864.

That surviving siblings of George Wren's death included all of the following, under the age of 16 years.

Elizabeth Wren, born July 21, 1860.

Frank Wren, born June 18, 1862.

John Wren, born January 18, 1864.

That Patrick Wren has not “recieved or applied for pension nor sided with the Rebellious Army and its cause”.

With Allen Rutherford of Washington, D.C., the lawful attorney, to present said claim.

Noted that Mr. Patrick Wrin resides in the City of Oconto, Wisconsin, being under the constant care of Mr. Charles Lynes (Mr. Wren's son-in-law)

Signed by making his mark (“X”), Patrick Wren

Witnessed by T.P. McClallin, and J.F. Reynolds

Doc. #10 of 17: Copy of Marriage License Certificate of St. John's Church, Albany, New York, dated, August 30, 1886.

Original document dated, September 25, 1841, by the Reverend R. J. Kelly, Pastor

Married, Patrick Wren to Catherine Redmond

Witnessed by Thomas Williams and Catherine Bennet

Copy of the document signed by residing Pastor James Ludden,  
dated March 4, 1887.

Doc. #11 of 17: State of Wisconsin, County of Washington.  
I.S.F. Mayer, Washington County Treasurer, certifies  
that he was the custodian of the Tax Rolls of the town of  
Erin.  
That Patrick Wren owned real estate and personal property  
“to wit” in both the years 1864 and 1865 (NW1/4, Sect. #15),  
Town 9, Range 18, 40 acres valued at \$400.00,  
wth tax paid on the same in 1863 of \$3.52.  
Valuation in 1864 was \$400.00, with tax paid on the same  
of \$6.39.  
In 1865 the personal property value was \$80.00 with tax paid  
of \$1.28.

Signed in West Bend, Wisconsin on February 20, 1888,  
by S.F. Mayer, County Treasurer.

Doc. #12 of 17: State of Wisconsin, County of Milwaukee, a General  
Affidavit Concerning Patrick Wren's Claim of Pvt. George  
Wren of the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Regiment (deceased).  
That October 22, 1886, Patrick Wren (65 years), and  
a resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin “is a respectable  
citizen entitled to credit”.  
“Being sworn in that his residence in 1865 was Monches,  
P.O. Washington County, Wisconsin”, as he lived there  
until the fall of 1877.  
From that point he moved to Milwaukee until May, 1878,  
when he moved to Albany, New York. He remained in  
Albany until 1884.  
He then started for the West but took sick from a hemorrhage  
of the lungs. Continuing West, he arrived at his daughter's  
home in Oconto, Wisconsin.  
He remained there until April, 1888, at which time he  
Milwaukee, where he has since resided.

Signed by Patrick Wren by making his mark, (“X”)  
Witnessed by W.B. Weller and James Fitzpatrick

On September 13, 1888, witnessed by R.C. Hall, Clerk  
of the Circuit Court of the City and County of Oconto,  
Wisconsin.

Doc. #13 of 17: A Record of a Certificate of Baptism, The Catholic Church of St. Joseph, Albany, New York.  
Francis Patrick, child of Patrick Wren and Catherine Redmond was born on February 16, 1857 and Baptized on March 1, 1857.

Attested and signed by Reverend John J. Conroy  
Witnessed by Sponsors John Sweeney and Sarah Heydece  
(as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church,  
dated, June 23, 1928, by the Reverend M.J. Rooney, Rector).

Doc. #14 of 17: State of Wisconsin, City of Milwaukee, a sworn affidavit of Isaac Shire, stating that he was a partner with W.T. Hanson and Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and that knows that Mr. Patrick Wren, "worked for our company in the spring of 1886.

Signed by Isaac Shire on September 17, 1886  
Sworn before me, Joan R. Liver, Notary Public, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Doc. #15 of 17: State of Wisconsin, City of Oconto. A Pension Claim of Patrick Wren, father of George Wren.  
Present is character witness, Mrs. Annie Lynes, aged 43 of Oconto, Wisconsin, who is filing this affidavit, and claiming that Patrick Wren (her father) obtained financial support in 1864 through his son George.  
George worked on his father's farm, giving most of his wages to his father who was sick and unable to make a living wage.  
At the time the claimant Patrick Wren owned 40 acres of land in Washington County. His worth was \$400.00 and his mortgage was \$200.00.  
During his last 3 years of his life, her brother (George Wren) contributed fully one one half of his father's support.

Signed, Mrs. Annie Lynes

Doc. #16 of 17: State of Wisconsin, County of Washington, A General Affidavit.

Representatives James Fitzpatrick and Thomas Toner duly swore that Patrick Wren's wife, Catherine, died on March 14, 1864.

That George Wren (Catherine and Patrick's son), was unmarried at the time of his Enlistment.

Signed by James Fitzpatrick and Thomas Toner  
Subscribed and sworn before me, James Kenealy Jr., Notary Public, on September 10, 1886.

Doc. #17 of 17: A visual photograph of the Headstone of Pvt. George Wren.

Death date 06/23/1865, internment date unknown.

Buried at: Sect. A, Site 584, Keokuk National Cemetery,  
1701 J. St., Keokuk, Iowa 52632

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