Guide to the Pvt. James Cavenaugh Archival Collection, Company D, 6th Wisconsin Infantry. Cavenaugh 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. Cavenaugh's widow to aid in the support of herself and surviving 4 children.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions
No photocopying please

Preferred Citation

Provenance

Processing Information
Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2011

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE
Mr. James Cavenaugh 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 Cavenaugh and sons William, Edward, and Thomas.

Doc. #2 of 25: A record from the Sixth Regimental Infantry listing James Cavenaugh 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 17th, 1865) for Catherine Cavenaugh, the widow of James Cavenaugh. The document states that Mrs. Cavenaugh is to receive $8/mo. Beginning April 1st, 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. Cavenaugh's monthly benefit to increase to $8/mo. beginning April 1st, 1865.

Doc. #5 of 25: This document dated Oct. 25, 1901, shows that Mrs. Cavenaugh's benefits were dropped due to her death on Sept. 25th, 1901.

Doc. #6 of 25: A letter dated Dec. 3, 1866, noting the births of the Cavenaugh children and mentioning the death of their youngest child, 2 year old Joseph Francis Cavenaugh, on Feb. 11, 1867.

Doc. #7 of 25: Application by Catherine Cavenaugh 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 Cavenaugh received on Aug. 31, 1865, by Attorneys Darius Borbes and M.F. Lascon.

Doc. #9 of 25: Marriage Licence Document of James Cavenaugh and Catherine Roach dated Oct. 28, 1855. This document was witnessed by Nicholas Nedley, Ms. Margaret O'Neill, 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 Cavenaugh 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 Cavenaugh for 10 years in addition to knowing Mrs. Cavenaugh's 3 children and their ages since Mrs. Cavenaugh 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
Cavenaugh 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 Cavenaugh, dated August 31, 1865.

Doc. #15 of 25: A record of the baptisms of James and Catherine Cavenaugh'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 Cavenaugh 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 Cavenaugh, widow of James Cavenaugh, Pvt., Co. D, 6th 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 3rd, 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 25th, 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 Cavenaugh (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. Cavenaugh so testified that all 3 of her surviving children were living with her and all were under the age of 16. In addition Mrs. Cavenaugh 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 Cavenaugh 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
Cavenaugh'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., 6th Wisconsin Infantry. This document certified that Pvt. James Cavenaugh of Co. D, “was fatally wounded” on March 1, 1865, at the battle of Gravely Run, Virginia, and Mr. Cavenaugh “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) Cavenaugh, 40 years old, who appeared before the Clerk of Court on Dec. 7, 1866. Mrs. Cavenaugh 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. Cavenaugh'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 Cavenaugh.

Doc. #23 of 25: A document of Jan. 31, 1867, stating a discrepancy that Mrs. James Cavenaugh made regarding her statements on the births of her 3 children. This discrepancy of asserted facts and dates was largely believed to be Mrs. Cavenaugh's inability to read, write and sign her own name. This document also went on to assert that Mrs. Cavenaugh'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. Cavenaugh 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.