

May 6 1939

State of Illinois
Military and Naval Department
Springfield, Illinois

Gentlemen:

Five years ago, almost to a day, I received a letter from C. E. Black, the Adjutant General, advising me that he had not been able to locate the service of my grandfather, Alfred Smith Simons.

Alfred Smith Simons was born in Plymouth, Chenango County, New York, December 21, 1809. He was fifty-one years old at the outbreak of the Civil War and I do not know how soon he enlisted, but I think he served a total of three or four years. He is said to have dyed his hair and to have given his age as younger than he really was. His first wife, my grandmother, died March 29, 1860, so he was foot-loose. He had blue eyes, was of good build, probably five feet, ten inches, an active and vigorous man. He died at Grays Lake, Illinois, where he is buried. The date being not later than 1896, perhaps somewhat earlier. Late in life he married Mrs. Emily Ray of Grays Lake. He was a musician, but probably served as a private. He may have enlisted from Waukegan.

My father, Adolphus Ezra Simons, enlisted at the first call and was not discharged until May 15, 1866. He also enlisted from Waukegan and was in the 37th Illinois Volunteers Infantry. I think that Alfred Smith Simons was in the 37th for a time but I have been unable to locate him in the Adjutant's records. During a part of the war I think my grandfather served in a Missouri Regiment.

I shall be happy to have any information you may have, as a matter as important as service in the Civil War should be preserved.

Respectfully yours,

WCS:GM