

Hezekiah Shilling (1844-1909) Civil War Veteran

Hezekiah Shilling was born in June 1844 in Maryland, according to the 1900 census. In the 1850 census of Buckeystown, Frederick County, MD, he appears as the 6th of eight children of John and Catherine Shillen. Apparently, his father died during the next ten years, and in 1860, 17-year old Hezekiah is living with his widowed mother ("Mary"), his 87-year old grandmother, Mary Shelton, and two of his older brothers, Emanuel (aka, Thomas E.) and Joseph in the Burkittsville area of southwestern Frederick County.

Involvement in the Civil War. On August 26, 1862, 18-year old Hezekiah mustered into Co. G of the 1st Regiment of the Maryland Potomac Home Brigade at Harpers Ferry. Just a few weeks later, he found himself in Harpers Ferry as part of the Union forces defending that strategic town against Stonewall Jackson. The Union Army surrendered on September 15, and this new private found himself being marched to Camp Parole, near Annapolis. *Had they not been taken prisoner and been placed on parole at that time, they would have marched to Antietam to participate in that slaughter just two days later.*

They spent the winter at Camp Parole until a prisoner exchange was arranged in the spring. They then returned to their original assignment, which was "for the protection of the canal and the property and persons of loyal citizens of the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the vicinity whilst in the service."

However, as the war progressed, they were called on to participate in some significant battles, most notably the Battle of Gettysburg (July 3-5, 1863), and the Battle of Monocacy (July 9, 1864).

On April 8, 1865, members of the 1st PHB were transferred to the 13th Maryland Infantry Regiment (MIR). The following day, April 9, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, ending the war. The 13th MIR was disbanded on May 29, 1865, and Hezekiah Shilling, along with the others, mustered out of service at that time.

On December 19, 1865 (age 23), Hezekiah married Barbara E. Ball (age 26) at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown, MD. She had two children from a previous marriage to a Mr. Haller: Elizabeth (age 11) and Amos Benjamin (age 5).

In 1870, Hezekiah's family was living in Berlin. He was working as a railroad repairer. In addition to Elizabeth and Amos, they now had a one-year old son John L. There were two other families living in the same household: Hezekiah's mother Catherine Shilling (age 60) with her two adult sons Thomas E. (30) and Joseph (27); and Hezekiah's oldest brother Andrew Shilling (36), with his four children, Catherine (12), Sarah F. (11), Martha (9), and Joseph (6). Of note is the fact that another Civil War veteran, Battle Bond, was living next door with his family.

In 1880, Hezekiah (age 38) was still living in Berlin, now working as a canal boatman. In addition to his wife Barbara (44) were their two children John (11) and Ida (8), and Barbara's son from her previous marriage, Amos Haller (20).

Hezekiah's mother **Catherine Shilling** died in 1886 at the age of 80, and was buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery. Hezekiah and Barbara's 21-year old son **John L. Shilling** died in 1890 and was buried near to his grandmother. We have no details of his death.

A news clipping from *The Frederick News* dated June 11, 1892, gives a little insight into the life of Hezekiah in his later years: "A monster carp was caught in the wasteway at the Brunswick lock on Tuesday by Mr. Hezekiah Shilling. It tipped the beam at 10 ½ pounds."

Hezekiah's wife **Barbara Shilling** died in 1900, following which Hezekiah went to live with his daughter Ida and her husband John R. Virts and their family. Barbara was buried with her son and her mother-in-law in the Old Berlin Cemetery.

Hezekiah's brother **Thomas Shilling** died in 1902 of "dropsy," age 62. Little is known about him. He was buried with his mother.

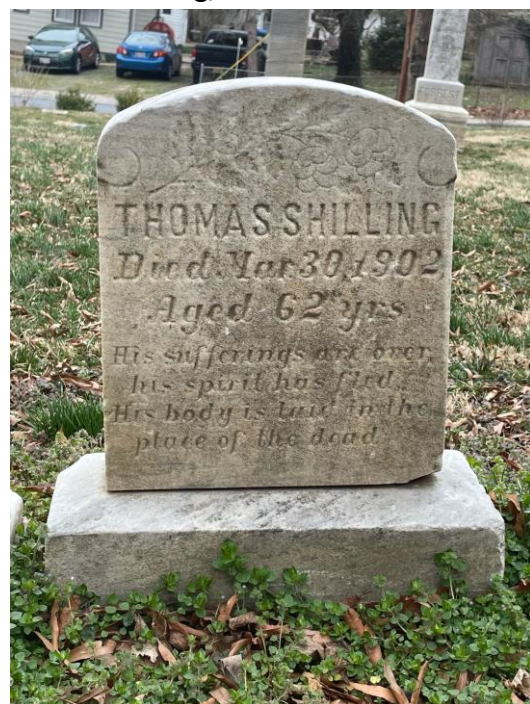
Hezekiah later remarried to Mary Jane Virts (1864-1923), who had been previously married to Joseph Virts and had two grown children. (When she died in 1923, she was buried in the Knoxville Reformed Cemetery, where her mother and two siblings are buried.)

Hezekiah Shilling died at Brunswick on August 13, 1909, at the age of 65, and was buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery along side the other family members noted above. However, there is no headstone to mark the graves of Hezekiah or his wife Barbara.

Catherine Shilling, mother of Hezekiah.



Thomas Shilling, brother of Hezekiah.



John Shilling, Hezekiah and Barbara's son.

