

The data on the tombstone opens the door to discovery of extensive information about the duties and the postings of the 14th Regiment of the U. S. C. I. during the Civil War. This information can be reviewed in the “Official Records of the War of the Rebellion”, in many volumes. It tells of where the unit was stationed at various times, what duties were performed, engagements undertaken, recruiting, and disbanding. Individual service records for the soldiers are also available for a fee from the government archives.

Gabriel Blackburn’s life was further researched, and he was found in the census of 1900. However, in that census, he was living as a divorced man with a Mary J. Smith (also divorced) who was several years younger than he or his first wife, Elvira, from the 1880 census. Mary Smith was shown as the mother of 5 children, of whom only 2 were still living at the time of the 1900 census. One of her children is enumerated in the household headed by Gabriel Blackburn.