

## William H. Avery

William Henry Avery enlisted in Michigan's Fifth Infantry (Fighting 5<sup>th</sup>) Regiment, Co., F; on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1862 at the age of 19. At the onset of the War, the Adjutant General ordered the combining of several militia units to form the Michigan 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Company F, known as the Governor's Guard, was under the command of Capt. Heber La Favour. William's enlistment was among the many men meant to resupply the Fifth with soldiers following the Seven Days battle which nearly decimated the regiment in May of 1862. Just six weeks later, William's brother Albert, enlisted and met up with the Fifth and his brother in Virginia, December 1862. William and Albert were two youngest sons of Elisha and Nancy Slawson Avery of Porter Township, Cass Co., Michigan.


William fought in the following battles:

Battle of Fredricksburg (Dec. 13, 1862)  
Battle of Chancellorsville (May 1-5, 1863)  
Gettysburg (July 2 & 3, 1863)  
Skirmish of Manassas Gap Virginia (July 23, 1863)  
Auburn Creek (Oct 13, 1863)  
Kelley's Ford (Oct, Will 1864)  
Locust Grove (Nov. 28, 1863)  
Battle of the Wilderness (May 6, 1864)

William was wounded at Battle of the Wilderness, suffering a severe shoulder wound and the loss of a finger. He was transported back to Michigan and hospitalized at St. Mary's in Detroit. He remained hospitalized until December, 1864 when he attempted to return to service of his own accord. He was ordered to return to the hospital as he was too sick to serve and remained hospitalized until he was transferred to the 14<sup>th</sup> Veterans Reserve Corps. Co., A, on April 1, 1865. He was then discharged from the Fourteenth in July of 1865.

William's brother Albert, died 3 days after Gettysburg as a result of wounds suffered there on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is easy to imagine that William fought near to Albert and was perhaps by his side as he died.

After returning home to Cass County, William married a Martha James August 12, 1865. They had a son Albert, born 1866. Then a son, Wallace or William H born March 6, 1873. Martha died in March 16, 1873 as a result of a fever from childbirth. With two small sons William needed a mother for his boys. He married Sarah Elizabeth Chapman September 13, 1873. William and Sarah added another son to their home, Charles Anson October 23, 1876. Charles was named after William's two older brothers; Charles, who resided in Michigan and Anson, who had moved to Iowa and became the founder of Avery Township and became a prominent, wealthy farmer. In 1879, William lost Sarah Elizabeth to consumption. Now with three sons, William found Matilda Wallace Long, a widow with children from her first marriage. They married three months after Sarah died. Matilda died in 1900 in Minnesota where she and William had moved to in 1885. After Matilda died, William moved back to Berrien County, Michigan and perhaps wishing for company in his advanced years, he married Matilda's sister Sarah Wallace Butler. William died in Berrien County, Michigan September 1, 1908.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Avery". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.