

Private Richard Nelson Parr

Richard Parr was born in Licking County, Ohio to Hiram Parr and Sarah Greenwood on April 15, 1832. He moved, in 1850, to Shelby County, then on June 21, 1860 married Rachel Melinda Horner. With three children in 1862, Richard enlisted in Ohio's 118th Regiment, Co. I. While Company I was in Benton's Station Kentucky in February of 1863, likely loading or unloading supplies, Richard's foot slipped on the track. As Richard's foot slipped and he lost his balance, fell and lost his fingers on his right hand under the wheel of the train car. He was immediately discharged honorably.

In 1870, Richard, along with his parents and siblings, moved to McLean County, Illinois. Richard and Rachel by that time had 6 children. Between 1875 and 1882, another daughter was born. Records and dates, given by this daughter vary for her birth year. Her name varied also, from Isola, Isa, and Ida Mae. Ida Mae is the name she gave on her marriage record, dated 1894, to Charles Anson Avery who was born in Cass County, Michigan but was living in Blue Earth, Minnesota.

On Feb 9, 1885, Richard and his oldest son, John, decided after dinner to go the closest saloon for drinks. At that bar they met up with William Riley Jackson, a local "tough". Jackson requested the Parr men to give him a ride in their wagon. They arrived back at the Parr residence, probably for more drinks when Jackson insisted that one of the Parr men stole his pocket watch. In the argument, William Jackson pulled his weapon and shot both son John and father Richard. John survived his wounds; but Richard did not and died two days later after giving his written testimony as to the event. William Riley Jackson was sentenced to life in prison after a long and well publicized trial. In 1900, Jackson was released, and disappeared.

Richard and Rachel are buried in Blue Mound Cemetery in McLean County, Illinois.