

# CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE



***CURTIS C. BISBE***  
***1838 – 1902***

Transcribed by William F. Bisbee

*History of Erie County, Pennsylvania*, published in 1884 by Warner, Beers & Co., says of Curtis C. Bisbe: "*Curtis enlisted August, 1862, in the One Hundred and Eleventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was severely wounded in the left leg at the battle of Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862; on account of same was discharged January 19, 1863, and, although he tried to re-enlist, was not accepted on the same account. He was a brave, faithful soldier, and is now an influential citizen, enjoying the respect of the entire community.*"

Curtis was born at Lebanon, Madison County, New York in 1838, and moved with his parents, Joseph C. and Sally Ann Morey Bisbee, to the State Line Community in Amity Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1857. It is curious that his parents and many of his siblings spelled their name *Bisbee*, while Curtis and at least one of his brothers intentionally and consistently spelled it *Bisbe* with one 'e.'

The following pages are a transcription of some of the more informative and interesting documents in his official pension file at the National Archives.

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

Adjutant General's Office

Washington, D. C.  
April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your office of application for Pension No. 121.460, and to return it herewith, with such information as is furnished by the files of this Office.

It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office, that Curtis C. Bisbe was enrolled on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Aug., 1862, at Wattsburgh in Co. "F", 111<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Penna. Volunteers, to serve 3 years, or during the war, and mustered into service as a Prvt & Rct. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Sept. 1863, at Harrisburg, Pa., in Co. "F", 111<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Penna. Volunteers, to serve 3 years or during the war. On the Muster out Roll of Co. "F" of that Regiment, ~~for the months of~~ Dated July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, he is reported Private Discharged Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863 at Smoketown Hos. Md., of wound rec'd in action.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

*Samuel Breck*

Assistant Adjutant General

The Commissioner of Pensions,

Washington, D. C.

Certificate No. 87174  
Name, Curtis C. Bisbe

Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Pensions  
Washington, D. C., January 15, 1898

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

Sir:

In forwarding to the pension agent the executed voucher for your next quarterly payment please favor me by returning this circular to him with replies to the questions enumerated below.

Very respectfully,

H. Clay Evans  
Commissioner.

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*First.* Are you married? If so, please state your wife's full name and her maiden name.

*Answer.* Yes – Effie Bisbee – was Effie Teed

*Second.* When, where, and by whom were you married?

*Answer.* September 10, 1886 at Lowville Erie Co Pa

*Third.* What record of marriage exists?

*Answer.* Marriage Certificate – living witnesses

*Fourth.* Were you previously married? If so, please state the name of your former wife and the date and place of her death or divorce.

*Answer.* No

*Fifth.* Have you any children living? If so, please state their names and the dates of their birth.

*Answer.* Lola Bell Nov 25 1890 – Bertha Dell June 9 1893 –

//s// Curtis C. Bisbe/

Date of reply, July 4, 1898.

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Claim no. 773458  
Proof statement of  
Marriage & death  
and minor children*

*Erie County S.S.*

*Effie Bisbe of Amity Township Erie Co. Pa. Personally appeared before me and being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that her maiden name was Effie Teed and her married name is Effie Bisbe and that she was married to Curtis C. Bisbe on the tenth day of September A.D. 1884 at Lowville, Erie Co., Pa., by the Rev.*

*Joseph Allen.*

*Also that the said Curtis C. Bisbe died on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October at 7:45 A.M., A.D. 1902.*

*Also that he leaves two minor children*

*viz: Lola Bell Bisbe, born Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1890*

*Bertha Della Bisbe, born June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1893.*

*//s// Effie Bisbe*

*Witness: //s// Mr. Claud Thompson*

*Sworn and subscribed to before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the Township of Amity, Erie County, Pa., this sixth day of November, A.D. 1902.*

*A. J. Merry  
Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE  
JAN 6 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

DECLARATION FOR WIDOW'S PENSION

Act of June 27, 1890, as Amended by Act of May 9, 1900.

STATE of Penna., County of Erie, ss:

ON this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and two 1902 personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Effie Bisbe, aged 36 years, a resident of Amity Tp., Erie Co., County of Erie, State of Penna., who, being duly sworn according to law, makes the following declaration in order to obtain pension under the provisions of the ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED JUNE 27, 1890, AS AMENDED BY THE ACT OF MAY 9, 1900.

That she is the widow of Curtis C. Bisbe who was enlisted under the name of Curtis C. Bisbe at Erie, Pa. on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1862, as a Private in Company F, 111<sup>th</sup> Regt., Pa. Vol. Inf. and honorably discharged January 13<sup>th</sup> 1863, having served ninety days or more during the late war of the rebellion. That the soldier was not in the MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE of the United States except as stated above. No other service (1 word) under Certificate No 87174 @ 8.00 per month last paid Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1902 Claims arrears (1word) date of death Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1902.

That she was married under the name Effie Teed to said soldier at Lowville, Erie Co., Pa., on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of day of Sept., 1884 by Rev Joseph Allen; that there was no legal barrier to the marriage; that she had not been previously married; that the soldier had not been previously married.

That the said soldier died Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1902 at home, Amity Tp., Erie Co., Pa.; that she was not divorced from him; that she has not remarried since his death; and that she is without other means of support than her daily labor

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

and an actual net income not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars per year.

That the said soldier left the following named children who are now living and under sixteen years of age, to wit:

Lolla Bell Bisbe            born Nov. 25, 1890            at Amity Tp., Erie Co., Pa.

Bertha Della “            born Jun 9<sup>th</sup>, 1899            at “ “ “ “ “

That she has not heretofore applied for pension. This is the first and only application.

That she hereby appoints John L. Wells of Erie, Pa., her true and lawful attorney, to prosecute this claim and directs that the sum of Ten Dollars be paid for his services.

That her post-office address is Wattsburg, Erie Co., County of Erie, State of Penna.

ATTEST: (1) //s// J. J. Rouse

//s// Effie Bisbe

(2) //s// R. J. Backus

Signature of claimant

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

(beginning of page missing) Wattsburg Pa., Erie Co., and R. J. Backus, residing at Wayne Tp.—P.O. Corry, Pa., R. F. D. No 11, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say they were present and saw Effie Bisbe the claimant, sign her name (or make her mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said claimant and their acquaintance with her of 15 years and 12 years respectively, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be; that she is without other means of support than her daily labor and an actual net income of not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars per year; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

<sup>1</sup> //s// J. J. Rouse

<sup>2</sup> //s// R. J. Backus

SWORN to and subscribed before me this eleventh day of November, A. D. 1902, and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, etc., were fully made known and explained to the applicant and witnesses before swearing, including the words \_\_\_\_\_ erased, and the words \_\_\_\_\_ added; and that I have no interest, direct, or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

//s// A. J. Merry  
Justice of the Peace



CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Claim No. 773458*

*State of Pa. }  
County of Erie } S. S.  
Hon. E. F. Hare*

*Personal statement  
by claimant*

*Commissioner of Pensions*

*I Effie Bisbe am the widow of Curtis C. Bisbe late of Amity  
Township, County of Erie, State of Pennsylvania who died without  
will.*

*I have My only means of support is my daily labor except the use of  
one third of the income of farm of (200) two hundred acres on  
which there are judgments of (\$1204.29) twelve hundred and four  
29/100 dollars besides local debts that will use up the personal  
property and that the income of the farm will not exceed one  
hundred and fifty dollars after the debts are paid.*

*Effie Bisbee*

*Sworn and subscribed before me  
this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D.  
1902.*

*A. J. Merry  
Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE  
JAN 6 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Claim No. 773.458  
Property Statement  
& Dependence*

*State of Pennsylvania* }  
*County of Erie* } S. S.  
*Hon E. F. Hare*

*Commissioner of Pensions*

*We A. E. Reynolds and E. A. Bisbee have been acquainted with Curtis C. Bisbe late of Amity Township, Erie Co. Pa., for 37 years and 25 years respectively that he died without a will and leaves a farm of two hundred acres valued at three thousand dollars, \$3000, that there are judgments entered against this property amounting to twelve hundred and four and 27/100 (\$1204.29/100) dollars, that the legal debts will use up the personal property, that the farm will not bring an income of more than one hundred and fifty dollars after the debts are paid. The law allows his widow one third of this and we know this to be her only means of support except her daily labor.*

*Sworn and subscribed to* { *A. E. Reynolds*  
*before me this 19<sup>th</sup>* { *E. A. Bisbee*  
*day of December A. D. 1902*

*A. J. Merry, Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE  
FEB 7 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Claim No. 773.458*

*Proof of service of soldier  
Curtis C. Bisbe*

*State of  
Pennsylvania  
County of Erie  
Hon E. F. Hare  
Commissioner of Pensions*

} S. S.

*We, John Bennett of Venango Township, Erie County, Penna., and  
Edwin Read of Amity, Township, Erie County, Penna., P. O.  
Wattsburg, Erie County, Penna., have been personally acquainted  
with Curtis C. Bisbe deceased late of Co. F, 111<sup>th</sup> Pa. Inf. The past  
40 and 40 years respectively and we are positive that his only  
enlistment in the Army or Navy of the U. S. Was his enlistment Aug  
9<sup>th</sup> 1862 Co. F, 111<sup>th</sup> Pa. Inf. Discharged Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> 1863 and came  
home to Amity Township, Erie Co., Pa., and remained there until  
his death Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1902.*

*Personally appeared  
before me a Justice of the Peace this  
31<sup>st</sup> day of December A. D. 1902*

{ John Bennett  
Edwin Read

*The above named John Bennett and Edwin Read depose and say,  
being duly sworn, that the above statements are true.*

*A. J. Merry, Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE  
JAN 8, 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Wid. Div. Widow's No 773458  
Widow of Curtis C. Bisbe  
F. 111<sup>th</sup> Pa. Inf.*

State of Pa. }  
County of Erie } S. S.

*Hon. E. F. Hare  
Commissioner of Pensions*

*I, Effie Bisbe of Amity Tp. Erie Co. State of Pa.  
P. O. Wattsburg, Pa., do not own any other  
property of any kind other than my  
interest in the estate of my  
late husband Curtis C. Bisbe deceased, and the  
said Curtis C. Bisbe deceased left no insurance  
on his life. He left personal property that  
was inventoried and appraised at nine hundred  
and forty and 48/100 dollars of which I took my dower of three  
hundred dollars. The balance has been sold  
to pay local debts other than the judgments  
entered against the said estate.  
At Present I am living on the farm.*

*//s// Effie Bisbe*

*Sworn and Subscribed  
before me a Justice of the Peace  
this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January A. D. 1903*

*A. J. Merry  
Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE  
FEB 7 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Wid. Div. Widow's No 773458  
Widow of Curtis C. Bisbe  
F. 111<sup>th</sup> Pa. Inf.*

*State of Pa.                    } S. S.  
County of Erie*

*Hon. E. F. Hare*

*Commissioner of Pensions*

*We A. C. Bisbe and C. B. Bisbee both of Wattsburg, Erie Co., Pa., have been personally acquainted with Curtis C Bisbe deceased, late of Amity Tp., Erie Co., Pa., ever since his birth and we know his only marriage was with Effie Teed and also we know his only enlistment in the Army or Navy of the United States was his enlistment of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862.*

*A fair rental value of the farm would be about one hundred dollars and the taxes.*

*The P. O. address of E. A. Bisbee and A. E. Reynolds is Wattsburg, Erie Co., Pa., their testimony sent in previously.*

*Sworn and Subscribed to  
before me a Justice of the Peace in and  
for the County of Erie, State of Penna.  
this twentieth day of January A. D. 1903*

*{ A. C. Bisbe  
C. B. Bisbee*

*A. J. Merry  
Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE  
FEB 7 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*Wid. Div.*

*Widow's No 773458*

*Widow of*

*Curtis C. Bisbe*

*F. 111 Pa. Inf.*

*State of Penna. } S. S.*  
*County of Erie }*

*Hon. J. S. Davenport*

*Acting Commissioner of Pensions*

*I have no income from the farm*

*as it is in the hands of the administrator*

*and he has to use the income to pay*

*debts. I expect to have a home in the*

*house but have no income except for my*

*daily labor. //s// Effie Bisbe*

*Sworn and subscribed before me a Justice*

*of the Peace in and for the County of Erie,*

*State of Pennsylvania, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of*

*February A. D. 1903.*

*A. J. Merry*

*Justice of the Peace*

US PENSION OFFICE

FEB 24 1903

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

This Certifies  
That on the Thirtieth day of  
November  
in the year of our Lord  
1905

William James Sley  
and Effie Bisbe  
were by me united in  
Marriage  
at Brocton according  
to the laws of the State of New York

Witnesses  
Susie Burch  
J. A. Burch  
Walter H. Overs  
Clergyman.

State of New York  
S.S.  
Chautauque County



Rev. W. H. Overs being duly sworn says that the above certificate  
of marriage is a true copy of the one issued by him on the 30th day  
of November in the year 1905, and filed in the Village Clerk's  
office in the Village of Brocton, Chautauque County, N. Y.

W. H. Overs.

Sworn to before me this 18th day of May, 1906.

Frank P. Lewis  
Notary Public

From Jerry 1, 1902  
see 5, 1905  
see self in jacket, p. 1

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

CERT. NO. 615,868

PENSIONER: Lola B.

Wife OF

VETERAN: Curtis C. Bisbe

DAY NO. 5763 ROLL NO. 3





CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

That the following named are the only children of the soldier who are now living and under sixteen years of age, to wit:

Lola Bisbe born Nov. 25, 1890, at \_\_\_\_\_

That no prior claim on behalf of said child has been filed.

That his post-office address is Wattsburg, county of Erie, State of Pennsylvania.

ATTEST: D. A. Coolidge

//s// *W. G. Harwood*

A. L. Phelps

claimant's signature

US PENSION OFFICE

9 APR 1906

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

Also personally appeared D. A. Coolidge, residing at Wattsburg, Pa., and A. L. Phelps, residing at Wattsburg, Pa., persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, say that they were present and saw W. G. Harwood, Gdn., the claimant, sign his name (or make h\_\_ mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said claimant and their acquaintance with him of 16 years and 25 years, respectively, that he is the identical person he represents himself to be; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

//s// D. A. Coolidge  
//s// A. L. Phelps  
signature of witnesses

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, A. D. 1906 and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, etc., were fully made known and explained to the applicant and witnesses before swearing, including the words \_\_\_\_\_, erased, and the words \_\_\_\_\_, added; and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim

W. H. Cornell  
Justice of the Peace  
Wattsburg, Pa.

Validity Accepted  
S. A. Cuddy,  
Chief, Law Division.  
Per JCS, 4 11 06

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

*I know that Lola B. Bisbe is the only living child of Curtis B. Bisbe, deceased soldier.*

*I have been well acquainted with said family for twenty years, I having lived neighbor to said family. I am forty three years old.*

*My Post Office address is Wattsburg, Pa. June 14, 1906.*

*John J. Rouse*

*State of Pennsylvania  
County of Erie*

*{ S. S.*

*Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace John J. Rouse who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and says that the facts set forth in the above statement are just and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.*

*Given under my hand and official Seal this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June A. D. 1906.*

*W.H. Cornell  
Justice of the Peace  
Wattsburg, Pa.*

CURTIS C. BISBE CIVIL WAR PENSION FILE

3-1081.  
ACT JUNE 27<sup>th</sup> 1890

PENSIONER DROPPED.

United States Pension Agency,

Pittsburgh, Pa.

29 JAN 1907

, 190...

Certificate No. 615 86 8  
Class Minors  
Pensioner Lola B.  
Soldier Curtis C. Bisbe  
Service Pt. F. 111 Pa. Inf

The Commissioner of Pensions.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the above-named pensioner who was last paid at \$ 10 to 24 Nov. 1906 has been dropped because of legal limitation

Very respectfully,

**D. ASHWORTH**

United States Pension Agent.

NOTE.—Every name dropped to be thus reported at once, and when cause of dropping is death, state date of death when known.

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3-1081.  
ACT JUNE 27<sup>th</sup> 1890

PENSIONER DROPPED.

**MC 846.680**

United States Pension Agency,  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1906

Certificate No. 559 715  
Class Widow  
Pensioner Effie Bisbe  
Soldier Curtis C. Bisbe  
Service Pt. F. 111 Pa. Inf

The Commissioner of Pensions.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the above-named pensioner who was last paid at \$ 10 to Nov. 30, 1905 has been dropped because of remarriage date Nov. 30, 1905.  
Present name Effie

Very respectfully,

Finance Division  
APR 30 1906  
BUREAU OF PENSIONS  
D. Ashworth  
United States Pension Agent

NOTE.—Every name dropped to be thus reported at once, and when cause of dropping is death, state date of death when known.

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