

The American Civil War was a unique and monumental event in the history of the United States for many reasons. It was the first American armed conflict fought on American soil in which the opposing sides were not made up mostly of foreign adversaries. It was the first combat in which many modern inventions were used for the first time on land, sea and in the air: rifled small arms and artillery; repeating weapons; land mines; air balloons; submarines; iron hulled ships powered by steam not solely by wind just to name a few examples. This civil war almost put an end to the noble experiment in democracy initiated by our forefathers only ninety years after its launching. The end of the Civil War witnessed the first assassination of a sitting U.S. President (only the sixteenth one the nation had). Of course, the most monumental outcome of all was the release of some three to four million enslaved African Americans from bondage and giving them the constitutionally guaranteed right to live as free people. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation gave notice to the world that it was not alright, legally as well as morally, for one human being to own another as property. Not quite as impactful, but no less significant, the American Civil War gave the chance to thousands of recent immigrants, particularly those of German, Irish and Canadian descent, to covertly declare their loyalty and commitment to their adopted country by putting on a military uniform and fighting for the preservation of the nation. Charles Jesse Clapper, Canadian by birth who preferred to be addressed as "Jesse", was a case in point.

Born January 10, 1841 in Quebec, Canada to John Charles and Mary Clapper, he immigrated to the United States about 1862-1863, a year or so after the canon in Charleston Harbor opened the Civil War.<sup>[1]</sup> He was twenty-one years old, stood five feet nine and one quarter inches tall, had a dark complexion with black hair and eyes. He made his living at being a black-smith in Hinesburgh, Vermont. From his compiled service records, it appeared that the selectman of the town had something to do with his volunteering to serve in the armed forces of the United States on August 26, 1864. Charles was mustered in the service at Burlington on the same day as he signed his enlistment papers. He was assigned to the Second Battery, Vermont Light Artillery for the period of one year.<sup>[2]</sup> Having only been in the country for a short time (a year or two) and not even yet a citizen of his newly adopted residence, he was called upon to take up arms in its defense. Charles was not the first "foreigner" to be impressed into the military during the Civil War. There were many immigrants who served in the ranks of regiments and companies who had not yet taken the oath of allegiance to the United States of America. And due to the abutment with Canada, there were a large number of French Canadians who came to the U.S. to live and work. Unlike the many Canadian laborers who annually came to Vermont during the busy planting and harvesting season on its countless small farms, Charles' appearance in the state seemed to be of a permanent nature. He had followed his older brother, Antoine, who had come to Vermont in 1860 and, like Charles, made the Green Mountain State their home for the rest of their lives.

The Second Vermont Battery Light Artillery's combat history was, very short and relatively uneventful. The unit was raised in Brandon, Vermont December 13, 1861. Captain L. R. Sayles was chosen to command. When completed, the Second Battery amounted to 128 officers and men. The battery was immediately sent to the Gulf coast of Mississippi on March 12, 1862. It debarked on Ship's Island where it unloaded its rifled cannon that shot Sawyer shells.<sup>[9]</sup> Ship Island (actually two barrier islands off the Gulf Coast of Mississippi) had the only deep-water harbor between Mobile Bay and the Mississippi River. In 1858, the State of Mississippi gave

jurisdiction of the islands to the Federal Government. Construction of a fort began in 1859. It was incomplete in 1861 when the Civil War erupted. The Confederates were quick to seize the unfinished fort. They named it Fort Twiggs after the Confederate General, David E. Twiggs. On July 9, 1861, after a twenty minute exchange of cannon shots with the USS Massachusetts, the Rebels abandoned Fort Twiggs and the Federals garrisoned it, renaming it Fort Massachusetts, in 1862. The advanced guard of Federal General Butler's expedition arrived at Ship's Island on December 3, 1861. On January 4, 1862, the Harper's Weekly reported that the Federal troops had landed "...without molestation...." By March 12, the Second Vermont Light Artillery, along with the First Maine and the Fourth Massachusetts Batteries, joined them on Ship's Island. Not only was this post important for launching land attacks on New Orleans and other strategic Mississippi River ports, it was also vital for controlling the coast and enforcing the blockade of Southern ports in the Gulf area. <sup>[3]</sup>

By May 2, the Second Battery had landed at New Orleans. Towards the end of May, they were ordered seven miles up the Mississippi to Fort Parapet. There it skirmished with Confederates during a raid in which it destroyed a railroad bridge. During the five months the Second was stationed at Fort Parapet, they lost sixteen men from disease, twenty-two discharged for disability, two officers dismissed from the service after being court-martialed and one officer who resigned.

On October 31, the Second Light Artillery again moved back to New Orleans. December 29, 1862 found the Battery on the move to Galveston, Texas. It stayed there only a few days. On January 1, 1863, after finding out that the Confederates had captured the city, the Second Battery left for New Orleans. At the end of January, the battery was ordered to Donaldsonville, seventy-five miles up the Mississippi. A month later, they were ordered to Baton Rouge. They took part in the siege of Port Hudson May-June of 1863. In early August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> section under Lieutenant Dyer moved on an expedition to Jackson, Louisiana. There they were attacked by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrests' calvary on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dyer was wounded and fifteen of his men, including Private Alexander, were captured. Lieutenant Dyer was paroled immediately, but the fifteen enlisted men were sent to Southern prisons.<sup>[4]</sup> After the surrender of Port Hudson, the battery stayed, doing garrison duty until July 7, 1865. It then marched to Baton Rouge on the ninth of July, 1865, took a steamer to Cairo, Illinois and then headed towards Burlington, Vermont. The last of the Battery was mustered-out on July 31, 1865. <sup>[5]</sup>

As for Charles, he was shipped off to New Haven, Connecticut by August 31, 1864 as a draftee to be outfitted for service as an artilleryman.<sup>[6]</sup> He was noted as "present" for the last muster of August at the rendezvous. At his enlistment, Private Clapper received the customary \$100 Federal bounty, but was paid the traditional one third August 26<sup>th</sup> with the remainder due to him in installments during the rest of his one year term of service.<sup>[7]</sup> Charles was still at New Haven, Connecticut on September 24 presumably being trained and equipped to perform his duties as a member of the Second Battery Light Artillery.<sup>[8]</sup> He did not actually join the battery in the field until October, 1864.<sup>[9]</sup> He remained a member of that unit until March 1, 1865 when the Second Battery was disbanded and reorganized. The original veterans were discharged and sent home while recent recruits, such as Charles, were attached to the First Vermont Heavy Artillery (also known as the Eleventh Vermont Infantry). Private Clapper served out the rest of his tour of duty

at Baton Rouge, Louisiana doing garrison duty.<sup>[10]</sup> On July 31, 1865, Private Clapper was paid off and dismissed from the service to resume his life as a private citizen again.<sup>[11]</sup>

When Charles went off to war in 1864, he must have left more behind him in Hinesburgh than just an empty blacksmith shop. He was discharged from the Army at the end of July, 1865 and by the sixth of September the same year he was married – a very short courtship! The bride was Adaline Goodro (aka Goodroe, Goodrow), 1847-1875. She was a New Haven, Vermont native, born on September 15, 1847 to Francis (Frank) Goodro and Matilda Butler. Both parents were Canadian born. Adaline was seventeen at the time of her marriage to Charles. Her father was an unskilled laborer in Canada.<sup>[12]</sup> Charles, now about twenty-four, was still making a living as a blacksmith after his return home.<sup>[13]</sup> Not long after their nuptials, Adaline began bearing children. By most accounts, she bore Charles four sons between 1866 and 1873: Jesse Edward (aka Edward Jesse), 1866-1952; Wille (William), 1869-1936; Charles, 1871-1948; and Frederick (Fred), 1873-1942.<sup>[14]</sup> Charles and Adaline had a short marriage – just ten years (1865-1875). Adaline contracted “diphtheria” and died on September 10, 1875 while living in New Haven, Vermont.<sup>[15]</sup> Having so many children in such a short period of time must have severely strained her stamina and may have compromised her immune system putting her at greater risk for contracting disease. According to the 1870s census taker, Charles had no estate value of any kind – he owned no property and had no personal possessions to speak of. The small Clapper clan must have struggled to maintain themselves. Their standard of living would have been equally bleak which also could have contributed to the loss of the matriarch of the family in 1875. After Adaline’s death, Charles was left with four youngsters to care for; to feed, clothe and house. And he had to work to do all this making it very difficult for him to also watch over the children during the normal work day for a blacksmith. This must have been a personal disaster for Charles. Small wonder that within a year of being widowed, Charles found a replacement.

Her name was Delia Bushey Whittemore, a divorcee who had been born in Canada on January 15, 1843, the daughter of Canadians Moses (1806-1866) and Delia Johnson (1812-1894).<sup>[16]</sup> At some point after her birth in 1843, Delia’s family came to the United States and settled in Bristol, Vermont where she grew up. Moses was a common laborer all of his life. The Bushey family never had much in the way of material possessions and did not enjoy a secure economic status. Moses worked by the day and did what he could to support himself and his six dependents. But as a “foreigner” with no special skills or training and illiterate in the English language to boot, he was only able to leverage a strong back and a willingness to work hard into a career of manual labor at low wages. His net worth in 1860 was only a paltry \$275.<sup>[17]</sup> It was no surprise then that Moses would want to marry off his oldest daughter at the first opportunity. As soon as he was gone from the home, it would be one less place at the dinner table. And so Delia married at a very young age. Her husband was a local farm worker by the name of Daniel Whittemore, a man it was reported was some eight to eleven years older than Delia. The couple were wed on August 31, 1861 in Bristol, Vermont.<sup>[18]</sup>

Just how young Delia was when she married Daniel was somewhat problematic. According to Vermont’s Vital Records, she was fifteen at the time of her nuptials in 1861.<sup>[19]</sup> The 1860 Federal Census listed her as being twelve years old, making her only thirteen at the time of her wedding in 1861.<sup>[20]</sup> Delia’s death certificate placed her birth on January 15, 1843 which would have made her eighteen when she married in 1861.<sup>[21]</sup> Thirteen would have been an extraordinary age, even

by 19<sup>th</sup> century standards, for a female child to wed. Fifteen, although very young, was still legal in Vermont in the 1800s. Eighteen sounded like a much more reasonable age for a father to hand over a daughter to be someone's wife. Even then, it was a very tender age for a female to become the mate of a man half again her age. Children began arriving not too long after the "I do's" were said. The first was a son they named Franklin Daniel (1864-1929), The second came four years later – a daughter, Wilma Ardella (1868-1926).<sup>[22]</sup>

Delia's marriage to Daniel was doomed from the start. Obviously, her marriage was one of convenience for her father more than one based on any tender feelings of love between bride and groom. Delia did not advance her socio-economic status any by the arrangement, simply substituting one day laborer for another. She was young – just how young exactly seemed in doubt. And Daniel turned out to be abusive to her while they were legally married. Eventually Delia divorced Daniel on the grounds of "intolerable severity" receiving final separation and custody of the daughter, Wilma, on or about June 17, 1876.<sup>[23]</sup>

Two weeks later, July 3, 1876, Delia Bushey Whittemore, twenty-nine, and Charles Jesse Clapper, thirty-five, became man and wife in New Haven, Vermont. The brevity of their courtship boggled the mind. And, there was an additional fly in the ointment as well. There was a newborn in attendance at the wedding. His name was Wallace H. Clapper. And public records showed that he was the son of Charles Clapper and Delia Bushey, born on September 16, 1874 or 1875.<sup>[25]</sup> Here's where the fly came in. Delia was married to her first husband, Daniel, from 1861 to 1876. In that time, they had two children together: Frank, born 1864 and Wilma, born 1868. Wilma was the last child Delia had with Daniel. Wallace's birth occurred one to two years BEFORE her marriage to Daniel was officially ended by court decree in 1876. If Charles Clapper was truly the boy's father, then he and Delia had to conceive him in 1873 or 1874 while both of them were still married to someone else (Delia's divorce wasn't final until June, 1876 and Charles' first wife, Adaline, did not die until 1875). The only conclusion possible, therefore, was that Wallace was the illegitimate son of Charles. When Delia and Charles became Mr. and Mrs. Clapper, Wallace, their biological son, was already two or three years old.

After their somewhat late union in 1876, Delia and Charles went on to have five more children; three boys and two girls:

Lena Ann Baslow	1879-1948
Wesley	1881-1970
Roy John	1883-1958
Ernest H.	1887-1967
Ethel Stewart	1891-1961 <sup>[26]</sup>

Altogether, Charles had ten children by two wives plus two step-children for total of twelve offspring in a mixed family tree.

In the 1870 Federal Census, the members of the Clapper family were listed as Charles, Adaline, Eddie (Jesse Edward, born 1866) and William (Willie), born 1869. Charles was a blacksmith. His total assets were zero – no real estate and no personal property tallied by the census taker that year.<sup>[26]</sup>

By the next census year, the family's situation had changed dramatically. Charles had a new wife, Delia, whom he had known before Adaline, his first wife, had died in 1875. She brought to the marriage with Charles two children from her previous marriage; Frank (1864) and Wilma (1868). Charles had four children of his own from his first marriage: Jesse Edward (1866); Willie (1869); Charles (1871); and Fred (1873). Before the 1880 Census was taken June 4, 1880, Delia and Charles had begun adding biological children of their own to the mix. There was Wallace (1874/75) and Lena or Lizzie (1879).<sup>[27]</sup> Six of the eight children in the family attended school when in session which certainly must have been a blessing for Delia. Just prior to the June census taking in New Haven, Charles made his first application for a Government pension based on a disability caused by his time of service in the two artillery units he was assigned to during the Civil War. He was approved for payments on September 19, 1879, two months before Lena was born.<sup>[28]</sup> That extra income would certainly be appreciated as the number of place settings at the family dining table was ever increasing.

According to the 1890 Special Schedule for veterans done in conjunction with the routine ten year census for the same year, Charles resided in Bristol, Vermont. The information recorded confirmed that he had enlisted as a private in the Second Battery Vermont Light Artillery August 26, 1864 and had served until discharged on July 25, 1865 after being in the Army for eleven months. Under the heading "Disability", it was noted that he suffered from "chronic diarrhea, chills (and) fever".<sup>[29]</sup> Apparently, he had been successful in convincing the pension board that his ailments were directly caused by his short service in the artillery during the Civil War. Most likely he received a minimal amount of pension money – probably about \$6 to \$8 dollars per month for his fevers and loose bowels.

In 1900, the Federal Census revealed that Charles had changed occupations, or at least had added another one to his list. He was labeled a "farmer". Another source did reveal that he owned thirty-eight acres of land in South Bristol on which he had a house, barn and a blacksmith shop.<sup>[30]</sup> How much he actually farmed versus how much he did smithy work was unknown. But he apparently kept the land in agriculture and operated his blacksmith shop simultaneously for an extended period of time. Between the two vocations, Charles was able to support his ever changing family. Reported to be fifty-nine in 1900, the ambitious veteran was still supporting a mixed family. Household members were listed as himself, his wife, Delia, two sons (Roy E. and Ernest H.), a daughter (Ethel M.) and a brother, Antoine who was seventy-four and a blacksmith like Charles. Antoine had apparently immigrated to the United States around 1860, about two years before his younger brother, Charles, followed him. After the Civil War, both brothers became naturalized citizens. Antoine had learned to read and write English before the 1900 Census was taken, but his younger brother had not. Antoine was listed as married, but no wife was included in the home of Charles in the 1900 Federal Census.<sup>[31]</sup>

Through the years on record, the list of household occupants of the home of Charles and Delia indicated the couple had a liberal open door policy for anyone to come in and join the family. This was especially evident in the last quarter of a century in the lives of the couple. For example, in July of 1900, Charles Clapper (born 1871) from Canada visited his relatives in Bristol including his father and step-mother.<sup>[32]</sup> In 1903, Charles and Willie Clapper of Newburgh, New York paid a visit to their father in South Bristol.<sup>[33]</sup> In the Fall of 1903, Wallace

Clapper and his wife set up housekeeping in New Haven Mills. Charles and Delia and Ethel left South Bristol to spend the winter at Newburgh (sic), New York and other places. Newburgh was where Fred, Charles, Willie and Roy all ended up residing after leaving Bristol. While Charles (Sr.) was gone to Newburgh for the winter, he “let his farm” to H.O. Manum who then hired Ernest (Charles’ son) to help with the farm work. And Charles’ brother, Joseph, ran the blacksmith shop that winter. Even Charles’ father-in-law, Moses, and his wife dropped by for a visit in the Fall of 1903.<sup>[34]</sup> This pattern of visitations and house swapping was typical of how Charles and Delia spent the last quarter century of their lives during the first twenty-five years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

As a proud veteran of the Civil War, Charles was a loyal member of the G.A.R. attending their annual encampments like the one in Boston in August of 1904.<sup>[35]</sup> Charles and Delia did not have to travel so far to visit close relatives though. In August, with Ethel in tow, they paid a call on Wesley and his family in Salisbury.<sup>[36]</sup> By the end of 1904, Charles was reported as being in “very poor health”.<sup>[37]</sup> How low his condition and what was the cause for his poor state was never disclosed. Perhaps because of it, Charles (Jr.), Willie and Fred all of Newburgh, New York, made a visit to South Bristol to see their father in January, 1905.<sup>[38]</sup> A month later, the local newspaper was reporting that Charles Clapper, Sr. had “leased his farm to Thad Billings (an in-law) who takes possession next week”. For the coming year, the paper went on to relate, “Mr. Clapper and family will reside at Newburgh, N.Y.”<sup>[39]</sup> In December of that same year, Charles, Jr. from Newburgh, N.Y. was in Bristol seeking to buy “hay for the New York market”. And Ernest Clapper, who was in the Army, was home for the holidays.<sup>[40]</sup>

The summer of 1908 was very busy for Charles and Delia while they resided on their property in South Bristol. About July 23, the elderly couple were called to South Lincoln on “account of the illness of their daughter” Lena Baslow. At the same time, they were entertaining “Mrs. Will Clapper and daughter Jessie from Newburgh, N.Y. and a lady friend from Jamaica.”<sup>[41]</sup> That December Charles and Delia nearly lost their home in a fire. The media reported that Delia had accidentally knocked over an oil lamp that was sitting on her sewing machine which created an instant blaze in the room. Charles was not at home at the time. The entire house might have gone up in flames if it were not for a neighbor who noticed the flames and smoke and came to the rescue. A.A. Hier and Delia managed to confine the damage to one side of the room in the home which was badly scorched. A few rugs and coats were ruined in smothering the flames, but otherwise the fire damage to the house was minimal. Delia was nearly overcome by smoke but no one else was injured in the blaze.<sup>[42]</sup> Early in 1909, the Bristol Herald reported that Charles had once again leased out his farm for the year. This time he made the deal with his step-son, Franklin Daniel Whittemore of Belden Falls. He was to manage the farm while Charles and Delia went off to spend most of their winter in Newburgh, New York.<sup>[43]</sup>

When the 1910 Federal Census was taken on April 15, Charles and Delia were recorded as residents of Newburgh, living at 167 Washington Street. According to the census, Charles was still employed as a blacksmith at sixty-eight. He may well have been actively engaged in smithy work as his son, Charles, had opened a blacksmith shop of his own when he moved to Newburgh from Bristol. In keeping with the established open door policy of the household, Charles had his daughter-in-law, Charlotte (sic) Clapper age twenty-three living with him.<sup>[44]</sup> Charlotte was son Roy’s wife.<sup>[45]</sup> In 1912, Charles was given a raise in his pension amount due to legislative

changes in Washington. His payment went from \$12 a month to \$15.<sup>[46]</sup> By the fall of 1912, Charles and Delia were back living in South Bristol. In September that year, a distress call went out to the Clapper family. Delia had taken critically ill. Ernest from Portland, Maine, Charles, Fred and Willie from Newburg, New York were urgently requested to come home because of her low condition.<sup>[47]</sup> It turned out to be a false alarm as Delia recovered from her “low condition” to live another seventeen years. But the incident may have put the fear of God into Charles, for he soon after indicated that he was ready to retire from farming and smithing. October 3, 1912, he put the following advertisement in the Bristol Herald:

### FOR SALE

I offer my place situated in South Bristol for sale. There is 38 acres of land. Good house and barn, two wagon sheds and grainery. Good water. Also blacksmith shop, with tools if desired. Five minutes' walk to school, 1-1/2 mile to creamery, 4-1/2 miles to Bristol Village. Reason for selling poor health. For price and terms call or write

Charles Clapper  
R.D.1 Bristol, Vt. <sup>[48]</sup>

Due to Congressional action again, Charles' pension was bumped up from \$15 per month to \$22 in 1914.<sup>[49]</sup> In 1915, Charles received a surprise visit from his son, Wallace. Some eight years previous, Wallace had gotten the itch to go West. He left his home in New Haven Mills and with the family in tow, headed for better opportunities in greener pastures. He ended up settling in Helena, Montana. After three years on the market, Charles had not yet been able to sell the family homestead.<sup>[50]</sup> Charles and Delia once again packed up and left South Bristol for Newburgh, New York in March of 1916 to stay with their son, Charles, Jr. This time they remained for a year, returning in April of 1917.<sup>[51]</sup>

1918 brought some pleasant, and not so pleasant, events into Charles' life. First, Charles suffered a nearly tragic accident for the seventy-seven year old. In January that year, he fell down a flight of cellar stairs in his home, severely bruising one shoulder.<sup>[52]</sup> He was extremely fortunate not to have been injured more seriously. Usually falls of that nature in someone of his advanced age would prove fatal. This time Charles got off lightly with just a badly bruised shoulder. The Spring of 1918 brought with it good news. Not only was World War I winding down, but Congress gave Charles another pension increase. His allowance went from \$22 to \$32 a month.<sup>[53]</sup> In October of 1918, Charles and Delia were rewarded with a visit from their daughter, Ethel Ramsey. Ethel had married a lieutenant in the Army so she moved around the country a lot. Between 1917 and 1919 though, she managed to visit South Bristol three times.<sup>[54]</sup> As the years ticked away, Charles and Delia both suffered from continually declining health. The couple got so bad in the Fall of 1917 that Jesse E. and his wife moved into their parent's home for the winter so as to be close to them.<sup>[55]</sup> Jesse's home was in New Haven Mills, not very far from his parent's place. Yet, at least in Jesse's mind, his parents were in such condition that just being close by wasn't good enough; he had to be right with them constantly.

The aging couple, with the help of their children, made it through the winter of 1919-1920. On January 15, 1920 in fact, the Bristol Herald made the following grand announcement:

"Charles Clapper and wife - 79 and 76 years of age respectively - observed their birthdays Sunday, though the exact dates are January 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. In order to make the anniversary just what it should be the entire family came home for the occasion (however, there were some notable absences like Frank, Wilma, Wallace and Ethel) ... This anniversary will long be remembered by those present as one grand good time..." <sup>[56]</sup>

The celebrated couple still lived on the farm in South Bristol.

Charles' native language had always been Canadian French. By 1920, he had not only learned to speak English, but had learned to read and write it as well. He owned his home and the farm without any liens on either. He had become a naturalized citizen sometime after his stint in the artillery during the Civil War. He and Delia continued to maintain their open door policy to visitors and relatives alike. Since all their children had grown and left the nest, the couple were now free to invite in guests to share their home with. According to the 1920 Federal Census, they had done just that. They had a boarder by the name of Lucy Robbins, twenty-two sharing their house with them.<sup>[57]</sup> In February of 1923, Charles suffered from a "shock". The cause and severity of his condition was not described, but he was badly enough off for another call to go out to his sons in Newburgh to come immediately home.<sup>[58]</sup> The alarm also went out to Ernest in Maine.<sup>[59]</sup> Two weeks later it was disclosed in the local press that both Charles and Delia had been seriously ill with the grip, but were now on the mend and "out of quarantine" Their daughter, Lena, who had contracted the illness while caring for her parents had recovered also and returned to her family in Lincoln. Ernest Clapper and his wife and child remained at South Bristol in order to look after Charles and Delia.<sup>[60]</sup> birthday celebrations, it seemed, were not the only events that brought families together. During the winter of 1924, Charles and Delia had another bout with the "gripp".<sup>[61]</sup> Again they recovered, but the health of both had been battered by repeated stresses. Their ability to fight off diseases and injuries had been compromised by these assaults. And their age was a factor against them as well. In fact, Delia never fully recovered from her latest attack of illness. The local media even reported that she was not improving well from her most recent sickness.<sup>[62]</sup>

With the coming of the winter of 1925-26, Charles and Delia moved in with their son, Jesse E.<sup>[63]</sup> In February of 1926, Delia fell so ill that Lena had to once again come and stay with her parents for a few days. In the same issue of the Bristol Herald, it was shared that Charles Clapper and his wife returned to their own home with their daughter, Ethel Ramsey of Montreal, who was spending "a couple of months with them."<sup>[64]</sup> Obviously, the aged patriarch and matriarch of the Clapper family were having a hard time caring for themselves and each other. By April, 1926, Charles put another ad in the newspapers:

**"WANTED:** Housekeeper, middle age, two elderly people." <sup>[65]</sup>

Once again Delia pulled through her illness and Ethel went back to Montreal. It was never known if Charles ever found a housekeeper.

Two years later, in August of 1928, Charles took another header down those same cellar stairs. This time he was not so lucky. He fractured his hip and had to be admitted to Porter Hospital in Middlebury.<sup>[66]</sup> Eighteen days later, Charles Jesse Clapper was dead. Stanton S. Eddy, M.D. declared Charles deceased of an “accidental fall, fracture of left hip and senility” on September 13, 1928.<sup>[67]</sup> His passing went with barely a notice. An obituary did appear in the local paper but it was very small and insignificant, barely mentioning his military service during the Civil War or any details about his long life. There were no comments about how admired he was by those who knew him in the community. There was little fanfare about his leaving. Two months later, his widow finally sold the homestead to a couple from Rutland.<sup>[68]</sup>

Delia survived Charles by a year. After selling the South Bristol property, she went to live with her son, Jesse, in New Haven Mills. There she passed away at the age of eighty-seven from “organic heart disease” on October 12, 1929.<sup>[69]</sup> She had been an invalid for more than a year. Her internment was in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>[70]</sup>

## NOTES

1. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Lori Wentworth Family Tree for Charles Jesse Clapper; Ibid, 1906 & 1920 U.S. Federal Census for Charles Clapper.
2. [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), Compiled Service Records Of Union Soldiers Who Volunteered To Serve In Organizations From The State Of Vermont, Image 310713140. Hereinafter referred to as Compiled Service Record.
3. [www.wikipedia.org/Ship](http://www.wikipedia.org/Ship) Island, Mississippi; Vermont In The Civil War/units artillery units/2<sup>nd</sup> Battery Light Artillery.
4. www. Vermont In The Civil War/units/artillery units/2<sup>nd</sup> Battery Light Artillery, article by John W. Chase, Captain.
5. Ibid.
6. [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), Compiled Service Record, image 310713141.
7. Ibid., Compiled Service Record, image 310713142.
8. Ibid., Compiled Service Record, image 310713144.
9. Ibid., Compiled Service Record, image 310713154.
10. Ibid., Compiled Service Record, image 310713137.
11. Ibid., Compiled Service Record, image 310713156.
12. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Lori Wentworth Family Tree for Adaline Goodroe (sic).
13. Ibid., Vermont, Vital Records, 1720-1908, Marriage for Charles Clapper.
14. Ibid., Clapper Family Tree of New York for Charles Jesse Clapper; [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial #27196454 for Jesse Edward Clapper; [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Clapper Family Tree for William Clapper; Ibid., Vermont, Vital Records, 1720-1908, Marriage for Charles Clapper; Ibid., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 for Fred Clapper.
15. Ibid., Vermont Vital Records, Death, 1720-1908 for Adaline Goodroe (sic) Clapper.
16. Ibid., Lori Wentworth Family Tree for Delia Bushey Whittamore (sic).
17. Ibid., 1860 U.S. Federal Census for Delia Bushee (sic).

18. Ibid., Lori Wentworth Family Tree for Delia Bushey Whittamore (sic).
19. Ibid., Vermont, Vital Records, 1720-1908, Marriage for Delia Bushee (sic).
20. Ibid., 1860 U.S. Federal Census for Delia Bushee (sic).
21. Ibid., Vermont, Vital Records, 1909-2008, Death for Delia Bushey Clapper.
22. Ibid., Lori Wentworth Family Tree for Delia Bushey Whittamore (sic).
23. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Middlebury Register, Sat., Jun 17, 1876.
24. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Vermont, Vital Records, 1720-1908, Marriage for Delia Whittamore and Charles Clapper.
25. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Addison County Independent, Fri., Oct 30, 1959; [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Vermont, Vital Records, 1909-2008, Certificate of Death for Wallace Homer Clapper.
26. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Vermont, Vital Records, 1909-2008, Death for Lena Baslow; [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial #119729117 for Wesley Clapper; Ibid., Memorial #134072312 for Roy John Clapper; Ibid., Memorial #11997981 for Ernest H. Clapper; Ibid., Memorial #99242550 for Ethel Clapper Stewart.
27. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), 1870 U.S. Federal Census for Charles Clapper.
28. Ibid., 1880 U.S. Federal Census for Charles Clapper.
29. [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), image 26556944, Organization Index To Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900.
30. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Special Schedule, 1890 for Charles Clapper.
31. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Bristol Herald, Thu., Oct 3, 1912.
32. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), 1900 U.S. Federal Census for Charles Clapper.
33. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Bristol Herald, Thu., Jul 26, 1900.
34. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Feb 17, 1903.
35. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Oct 8 and Nov 12, 1903.
36. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Aug 18, 1904.
37. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Aug 25, 1904.
38. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Nov 17, 1904.
39. Ibid., Middlebury Register, Fri., Jan 6, 1905.
40. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Feb 2, 1905.
41. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Dec 27, 1906.
42. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Jul 23, 1908.
43. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Dec 3, 1908.
44. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Feb 4, 1909.
45. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), 1910 U.S. Federal Census for Charles Clapper.
46. [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial #134072312 for Roy John Clapper.
47. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Bristol Herald, Thu., Mar 28, 1912.
48. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Sep 26, 1912.
49. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Oct 3, 1912.
50. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), U.S. Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards for Charles Clapper.
51. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Bristol Herald, Thu., Jul 29, 1915.
52. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Mar 12 1916 and Fri., Apr 20, 1917.
53. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Jan 17, 1918.
54. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), U.S. Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards for Charles Clapper.
55. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Bristol Herald, Thu., Jul 19, 1917, Oct 3, 1918 and Jun 12, 1919.

56. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Nov 8, 1917.
57. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Jan 15, 1920.
58. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), 1920 U.S. Federal Census for Charles Clapper.
59. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), The Enterprise and Vermonter, Thu., Feb 2, 1923.
60. Ibid., Middlebury Register, Fri., Feb 2, 1923.
61. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Feb 15, 1923.
62. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Feb 28, 1924.
63. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Nov 13, 1924.
64. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Nov 19, 1925.
65. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Feb 25, 1926.
66. Ibid., Bristol Herald, Thu., Apr 1, 1926.
67. Ibid., Middlebury Register, Thu., Aug 30, 1928.
68. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), U.S., Death Records, 1909-2008 for Jesse Clapper.
69. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), Middlebury Register, Thu., Nov 29, 1928.
70. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Vermont, Vital Records, 1909-2008, Death for Delia Bushey Clapper.
71. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), The Orwell Citizen, Fri., Oct 18, 1929.