

Sixteen Sons Serve In Armies

West Virginia Mother, Now 109
Years Old, Possesses Unique
Record.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO GAZETTE TIMES.]

MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA., March 20.—Mrs. Sarah Brandon, aged 109 years, of this city, holds the United States record as the mother of the largest number of civil war soldiers. No less than 16 of her boys served in the battles of that war, 14 on the Union and two on the Confederate side, while her total family was 23 children, but one of whom was a girl. In this section Mrs. Brandon holds the distinction of being the oldest woman, while, in honor of her sacrifices to her country, the government has placed her picture in the national gallery at Washington. Her likeness is also in the gallery at Columbus, O.

She was, before her marriage to Charles Brandon, Miss Sarah Parker, born in Belmont county, Ohio, on April 15, 1801. Her father was a farmer named Phillip Parker, while her mother is said to have been a full-blooded Indian. At the age of 11, almost 100 years ago, she lost her right eye when her small brother accidentally shot it out with an arrow. She has been a constant user of tobacco since her girlhood and smokes and chews nothing but the strongest varieties. Still hearty and strong, Mrs. Brandon does all her own housework, goes to the center of her city each week for her groceries, carrying a large basketfull home, and in other ways shows wonderful powers for her age.

Her 23 children are all the parents of large families and the oldest and youngest sons live in this vicinity. The former, Hiram Brandon, is 89 years of age and has a family of nine children, while the latter, Evan Brandon, is 72 and works daily in a coal mine. He also is father of nine. He shows the scars of no less than 17 bullet holes received during the

war.

Mrs. Brandon's husband died in 1856, following an eventful service in the Mexi-



Mrs. Sarah Brandon.

can war. At the time of their marriage he was father of 10 children, having been married twice previously. Mrs. Brandon was then but 15 years of age.

Cleveland Plain Dealer 11-22-1914

OHIO WOMAN, 113, SENT SIXTEEN SONS TO BATTLE



MRS. SWEENEY'S HOME.

SPECIAL TO THE PLAIN DEALER.
ST. CLAIRSVILLE, O., Nov. 21.

—Mrs. Sarah Brandon-Sweeney, who lived in Belmont county, was buried here Thursday, at the age of 113. She was the mother of twenty-two children, sixteen of whom she sent to war. Fourteen fought on the union side, two for the confederacy.

Most of her sons who engaged in battle died on the field.

At the war department in Washington hangs a photograph of Mrs. Sweeney, under which is the caption, "Mother of the Civil War." Her first husband and her oldest son fought in the Mexican war.

Mrs. Sweeney never was able to enumerate the number of her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren. They form a multitude.

Ivan, the surviving son, 81, is a great-great grandfather. He has nine children, all but one of whom are married. Neither mother nor son ever went to school, and neither could read a line.

Mrs. Sweeney smoked nearly all her life and drank liquor in moderation.



MRS. SARAH BRANDON
SWEENEY

Age was not responsible for her death. A fall was the cause.