

John Link (ca. 1827 – 1904) married three times, 1st Emmeline Jones (1830-1854); 2nd Eva Fresh (1831 – by 1867); 3rd Mary J. Barrow (1845-1895). After the Mexican War John removed to Logan County, Kentucky.

I believe that there is enough evidence to prove that John Link was not born in 1822, but closer to 1827. I lay out the following reasons:

Family history describes him running away to join the War with Mexico. Why would he have to run away if he was of the age of consent (21):

- John Link joined the Army June 25th, 1846 stating his age was 22, giving a birth date of 1823 his birth month was December (which I believe is not in dispute).
- John Link mustered out of the Army on June 23 1847, still using the age of 22, giving him a birth year of 1824.
- If in June of 1846, he was under age, he would have had to lie about his birth year. Estimating his birth of **December 1826 - or later** (assuming he turned 21 in December of 1846, his age at joining would have been 20 ½ years old or younger). This would be much more consistent with someone running away.
- If he was born prior to December 1826, there would have been no reason to run away.

Pension Record information:

- John Link stated he was 64 years old on Feb. 10th 1887, giving him a birth date of December 1822. It is interesting to note that the original appears to have his age as 60 with the “0” overwritten with a “4” (if this is correct his birth year would be 1826). He also states he was 22 when he joined [1846 – 22, plus his birth month of December gives him a birth year of 1823].
- John’s pension increase dated 4 Feb 1893 John Link states he is 68, giving him a birth date of December 1824.
- A statement he signed 30 Sept 1893 about himself, states he was 68, giving him a birth date of December 1824.
- A General Affidavit he signed on 4 Dec 1893, gives him a birth year of 1824 or 1825 depending on when his December birthday fell.

Pension Record information as to his location in 1850, this is to substantiate his location in 1850 for purposes of the census of that year:

- According to testimony of Dr. W. J. Byrne, he knew John Link since 1848, which is consistent with the 1850 census for John Link living in Logan Co., KY.
- His paymaster note indicated Mr. J. Link was living in Russellville in August of 1850.

Census records from the actual documents (note not transcriptions):

1850 Census Dist. 1, Logan Co., KY; Aug 30; page 14B:

John Link 23, Male, White. born PA, occupation Blacksmith [This would give a birth date of December 1826].

1860 Census District No. 2, Gordonsville Post Office, Logan Co., KY, page 98, Dwelling 678, Family 664, taken 10 July 1860:

John Link 32 Male White, Blacksmith, \$400 personal estate, born Ohio; [Birth date of December 1827]

1870 Census, Sharon Precinct, Sharon Grove Post Office, Todd Co., KY, page 5, page stamped 426, 6 Oct 1870:

Lynk, John, 41, Male, White, Farmer, \$2,000, \$2,000, Ohio [Birth date of December 1828]

1880 Census, Sharon District, 21, June 1880, Todd Co., KY, page 22 B:

Link, John, White, Male, 52, Farmer, born Ohio, father born Ireland, mother born Ireland. [Birth date of 1827]

1900 Census Sharon Groves, Todd Co., KY, 2nd June 1900, sheet 12 A, Enumeration District 83, Supervisor District 3:

Link John, head, White, Male, Born Dec., 1827, age 72, born Ohio, father born Germany, mother born Germany. [Birth date Dec 1827]

Conclusion:

- His original military records he states he was 22 when he joined the Army, when he left the Army 14 months later he still indicated he was 22.
- His pension record information give the birth years 1822-1826, for the most part they range from 1824-1826. I would say that he needed to tie his age back to 22 in order to prove he was the same John Link.
- In all his information he has only one true reference related to the year 1822 as his birth year.
- His age in the censuses give a birth year range of 1826-1828, with the majority using the year 1827.
- 1850 census, he is the only one who could have provided his information making his birth year 1826.
- The 1900 census specifically States his birth month of December, his birth year of 1827 and his age of 72.
- John appears to have been born December of 1827.

