

Dear Contest Judges;

My family would like for you to know what Mr. Chase and his work has done for us in the last few months.

For starters, I grew up with Pvt. Stephen Baughman's discharge papers up on a wall in my mother's house and wondered who he was and where he came from. No one knew. My grandfather (Stephen's grandson) died in 1948 and never said much about him to his 9 yr old daughter (my Mom). My grandmother thought he was buried in his home town in Ohio. So there ended the story for me, until I opened up the Sunday paper, and there was a photo of my great-great grandfather's headstone! Lost to the family for 70 years, then found by Marc, and best of all its located 8 blocks from my house!! Little did I know what this started.

I was able to find out from Marc where it was located. I told this to my wife and kids, and they all wanted to go to the cemetery to find it. The kids turned it into a contest to see who would be first to find it, and off they went. Did I mention their ages are 18, 13 and 11. We found it on our second search, and it started a ball rolling. The kids learned of web sites from Marc and his group and began researching to find Stephen's records -- yes MY kids, on their own, no help from me, WOW.

Then I told my Mom, and she started getting involved, helping the kids by showing them some family heirlooms and such. Then we found out from my Dad that he heard that a member of his family fought in the Civil War, and the kids started looking into his side.

We are all novice history buffs, but this article and being able to be involved has been adventure for me and my family. This gives us more chances to do things as a family, three generations I may add. Funny how a couple of photos by someone we never knew could get a family to have a new found hobby and get three kids to learn their ancestry.

There is more detail, but I won't bore you with that. Suffice to say we all want to thank Marc and The Times for doing this project.

This has been a blast and we can't wait to do more.

The Bergs John, Missy Jon, Vincent and Amanda