

A SOLDIER'S LIFE REPORTS

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REAL ARCHIVAL FILES — This report reads the genuine service record of Lt. Col. David L. Stricker, 2nd Delaware Infantry (National Archives, RG 94), and the pension file of his widow Sarah (National Archives, RG 15): public records, drawn from the founder's own research on the regiment his camp is named for. It is published here as a demonstration of the report itself.

A CIVIL WAR SERVICE & PENSION FILE REPORT

David L. Stricker

Lieutenant Colonel (killed as); Captain earlier · Company A (originally Capt. Stricker's Company), later Field & Staff · 2nd Regiment Delaware Infantry (Volunteers)

Widow's Pension

Family Keepsake Edition · Researcher-Reviewed

Prepared September 2, 2026

Every fact in this report is traced to the page that states it.

Prepared from the original records of the United States National Archives (Record Groups 94 and 15).

David L. Stricker

Lieutenant Colonel (killed as); Captain earlier, Company A (originally Capt. Stricker's Company), later Field & Staff, 2nd Regiment Delaware Infantry (Volunteers)

Short Biography

David L. Stricker was a young man of about twenty-one when he enrolled at Dover, Delaware in May 1861 and became captain of his own company in the 2nd Delaware Infantry. Promoted to lieutenant colonel in November 1862, he was wounded at Gettysburg in July 1863 and, while leading a Pennsylvania regiment, was killed in action at Spotsylvania, Virginia on May 12, 1864. He had married Sarah M. Smith in Philadelphia only weeks before his death; his widow drew a pension of \$30 a month until she herself died in January 1911. (The surname is spelled 'Stricker' in nearly every record but appears as 'Stryker' in a few army documents - see the notes.)

How to Read This Report

This report draws on two separate record groups: **Part A**, David Stricker's Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR, the army's own cards), and **Part B**, the widow's pension file (his wife's claim on the government). Each fact carries a reliability **Tier**:

- **Tier 1** — sworn testimony or the soldier's own handwriting (strongest).
- **Tier 2** — official contemporaneous records (muster rolls, AGO letters, certificates).
- **Tier 3** — claim-process paperwork.
- **Tier 4** — file numbers and clerks' notations (bookkeeping).

Other markers:

- **[SOURCE CONFLICT]** — the two files (or two documents) disagree; both readings are shown, never silently reconciled.
- **(learned by notification)** — the person swearing was not present at the event and learned of it by notice or report.
- **[illegible]/uncertain** — the handwriting could not be read with confidence; a possible reading is offered with the doubt stated.

Part A — CMSR Document Inventory

- **C-1** Jacket cover / card index (indexed as *Stricker, David S.* [sic]; Co. A & F&S, 2 Delaware Inf.; Captain and Lieut. Colonel; 28 personal papers; Book Mark Den-80-1866) [Tier 4]
- **C-2** Company Muster-in Roll (roll dated Wilmington, Del., 12 Jun 1861; muster-in to date 12 Jun 1861; enrolled May 21 at Dover; age 21; period 3 yrs; bounty \$100) [Tier 2]
- **C-3** Company Muster Roll, May 21–Aug 1861 (Capt., present/absent 'Signed Roll'; remarks 'Sick'; note capt. shows him present sick) [Tier 2]
- **C-4** Company Muster Roll, dated Oct 31, 1861 (Capt.; 'Absent at Cambridge Md.') [Tier 2]
- **C-5** Company Muster Roll, Nov & Dec 1861 (Capt.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-6** Company Muster Roll, July & Aug 1862 (Capt.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-7** Company Muster Roll, Jan & Feb 1862 (Capt.; present) [Tier 2]

- **C-8** Company Muster Roll, Mch & Apl 1862 (Capt.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-9** Company Muster Roll, May & June 1862 (Capt.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-10** Company Muster Roll, Sept & Oct 1862 (Capt.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-11** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Nov–Dec 1862 (Lt. Col.; absent; remarks 'Appointed Lieut Col Vice Baily promoted; Absent sick'; horse valuations) [Tier 2]
- **C-12** Company Muster Roll, Nov & Dec 1862 (Capt.; remarks 'Discharged Nov 13/62') [Tier 2]
- **C-13** Individual Muster-in Roll (Lt. Col.; roll dated near Falmouth Va, Nov 24 1862; enrolled Nov 13 1862 at Warrenton Va; age 22; period 3 yrs from May 21 1861; 'With rank from Nov 13/62') [Tier 2]
- **C-14** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Jany & Feby 1863 (Lt. Col.; present; horse valuations) [Tier 2]
- **C-15** Company Muster Roll, Jan & Feb 1863 (Capt.; remarks 'Discharged by reason of promotion Nov. 13/62') [Tier 2]
- **C-16** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Mar & Apl 1863 (Lt. Col.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-17** Special Muster Roll of F&S, April 10 1863 (Lt. Col.; present; remarks 'Absent at... Md. on loan from War Dept'; reading partly uncertain) [Tier 2]
- **C-18** Field & Staff Muster Roll, May & June 1863 (Lt. Col.; absent; remarks 'Absent from wounds recd at battle Gettysburg July 2, 1863'; 'From Second Auditor's Roll') [Tier 2]
- **C-19** Field & Staff Muster Roll, July & Aug 1863 (Lt. Col.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-20** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Sept & Oct 1863 (Lt. Col.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-21** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Nov & Dec 1863 (Lt. Col.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-22** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Jany & Feby 1864 (Lt. Col.; absent; remarks 'Detached on Recruiting service Delaware') [Tier 2]
- **C-23** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Mar & Apl 1864 (Lt. Col.; present) [Tier 2]
- **C-24** Field & Staff Muster Roll, Feby 29 to June 30 1864 (Lt. Col.; remarks 'Killed in action while commanding 53 Pa Vols at Spottsylvania May 12, 1864') [Tier 2]
- **C-25** Returns card (present/absent summary Sept 1861 through Apr 1864; sick at Cambridge Md Oct 61, sick at Harrison's Landing July 62, wounded July 63, detached recruiting Jan–Mar 64) [Tier 2]
- **C-26** Individual Muster-out Roll (Capt., Co. A; age 22; roll dated near Falmouth Va Nov 24 1862; muster-out to date Nov 24 1862; last paid to Aug 31 1862; remarks 'Discharged from the service for the purpose of accepting a commission as Lieut Colonel of 2 Regt Del. Vols'; Book Mark Den 80/1866) [Tier 2]
- **C-27** Jacket back / stamp (stamp JAN 21 1892; number 15485653; note 'Copy furnished Adj't Gen'l State of Del June 25, 1866') [Tier 4]
- **C-28** Company Muster-out Roll (Capt.; roll dated Wilmington Del July 1 1864; last paid 'Not Known'; remarks 'Promoted to Lieut Col Nov 23 1863') [Tier 2]
- **C-29** Jacket enclosure list (Stricker David L., Lt Col, Co F, 2 Reg't Del Inf; 28 enclosures; Med Certificates 4, Orders 12, Casualty Sheet 3, Misc Information 5, Pay or Clothing 2, etc.) [Tier 4]
- **C-30** Cover/wrapper of recruiting-reimbursement paper (Camp Wilkes near Middletown, Feb 25 1862; 'Relating to Reimbursements of Money for Recruiting, Capt D L Stricker'; 1899 refile stamp) [Tier 4]
- **C-31** Personal letter, Stricker to Major Judd, Camp Wilkes near Drummondtown Va, Feb 25/62 (asks about reimbursement of recruiting money; signed autograph) [Tier 1]
- **C-32** Endorsement/brief slip, Harper's Ferry Sept 30/62 (Capt. asks 20 days leave; 1 enclosure) [Tier 3]
- **C-33** Personal letter, Stricker to Sec. War Stanton, Harpers Ferry Va Sept 30/62 (application for 20 days leave; autograph) [Tier 1]

- **C-34** Blank/wrapper leaf with docket 'S.1658. Octr 1862' [Tier 4]
- **C-35** Surgeon's certificate (Philip M. Plunkett, Asst Surg 2nd Regt D.V.; Capt. D. L. Stricker; remittent fever; unfit 20 days) [Tier 2]
- **C-36** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 113, Hd Qrs Hancock's Division Oct 3 1862 (Capt appointed on court martial) [Tier 4]
- **C-37** Special Order No. 113, Hd Qrs Hancock's Div, Bolivar Heights Oct 3 1862 (Capt David L. Stricker detailed to General Court Martial; signed W. Mitchell) [Tier 2]
- **C-38** Near-blank endorsement leaf, faint pencil 'Regimental No 6 / Read Nov 26/62' [Tier 4]
- **C-39** Regimental Order No. 6, Hd Qrs 2nd Regt Del Vol, near Falmouth Va Nov 25 1862 (announcing Capt D L Stricker commissioned Lt Col; by order Wm P Baily, Col) [Tier 2]
- **C-40** Endorsement sheet, Application of Lt Col Stricker for sick leave 30 days, Nov 29–30 1862 (multiple endorsements: Baily, Zook, Hancock, Couch; approved 20 days; surgeon Dougherty recommendation) [Tier 3]
- **C-41** Personal letter, Stricker to Lt Wm H. Brady (Adj), Camp near Falmouth Va Nov 29 1862 (application for 30 days leave; autograph) [Tier 1]
- **C-42** Near-blank wrapper leaf, faint pencil '1.S.11.' [Tier 4]
- **C-43** Surgeon's certificate, David H. Houston, Surgeon 2nd Del Vol, Falmouth Nov 29 1862 (Lt Col Stricker, chronic diarrhoea, unfit 30 days, change of climate needed) [Tier 2]
- **C-44** Special Order No. 11, Hd Qrs 2nd Regt Del Vol, Feby 25/63 (Lt Col D L Stricker detailed to try prisoners under G.O. 91; Wm P Baily) [Tier 2]
- **C-45** Endorsement sheet, leave application May 1863 (Baily, Burnham, Brooke, Hancock endorsements; 'not indebted to the Comy Dept') [Tier 3]
- **C-46** Personal letter, Stricker to Wm H. Brady, Camp near Falmouth Va May 9/63 (asks 10 days leave; autograph) [Tier 1]
- **C-47** Endorsement/brief slip, 4th Brig May 24/63 (Baily reports Lt Col Stricker absent on leave; forwarded by Brooke) [Tier 3]
- **C-48** Letter, W.P. Baily to Chas P. Hatch (AAAG), Hd Qrs 2nd Del Vols May 24 1863 (reports Lt Col Stricker absent on leave under G.O. No 3) [Tier 3]
- **C-49** Docket slip, S.O. No 428, Hd Qrs 1st Division May 24/63 (note 'Should be Lt Col D L Stricker not Lt as on') [Tier 4]
- **C-50** Special Order No. 428, Hd Qrs 1st Division May 24/63 (Lt. D.L. Stricker detailed field officer of the day; John Hancock; note misprints rank) [Tier 2]
- **C-51** Near-blank wrapper leaf, faint pencil (illegible) [Tier 4]
- **C-52** Surgeon's certificate, Medical Director's Office 8th Army Corps, Baltimore July 5 1863 (Lt Col D.S. Stryker [sic] 2nd Del Vols, wounded near Gettysburg, unfit 20 days; signed Surgeon in charge of Invalid Officers) [Tier 2]
- **C-53** Endorsement + letter, Dover July 7 1863, Stricker to L. Thomas AGO (reports himself wounded per S.O. 180; docket 'Stryker D.S. Lt Col'; autograph) [Tier 1]
- **C-54** Near-blank wrapper leaf, pencil 'Entered on Rolls of May and June' [Tier 4]
- **C-55** Pay voucher, Pay Dept USA July 8 1863 (paid D.L. Stricker Lt Col \$342.10 in full May 1 to June 30 1863; Paymaster Taggart) [Tier 2]
- **C-56** Casualty Sheet of Wounded (D.S. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Del Vols, Gettysburg Pa, July 2 1863) [Tier 2]
- **C-57** Casualty Sheet of Wounded — duplicate of C-56 (D.S. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Del, Gettysburg July 2 1863) [Tier 2]

- **C-58** Casualty Sheet (full form) (D. L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Delaware Inf; wounded slight, Gettysburg July 2 1863; source Report of Killed/Wounded 4th Brig 1st Div 2d Corps; remarks: Army Register reports Lt Col David L. Stricker killed in action at Spotsylvania May 12 1864; certified Dec 17/84) [Tier 2]
- **C-59** Near-blank wrapper leaf, pencil 'D.L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del Vols'; 'Recd Hd Qrs 1st Div August 6 1863' [Tier 4]
- **C-60** Letter, John Brooke to Maj John Hancock, Hd Qr 4th Brig 1st Div 2d Corps Aug 6 1863 (reports Lt Col D.L. Stricker reported for duty; date of muster Nov 13 1862; 'lately absent wounded') [Tier 3]
- **C-61** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 884, Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d A.C. Nov 6 1863 (Detail for Picket Duty; 2 Del) [Tier 4]
- **C-62** Special Orders No. 884, Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Nov 6 1863 (Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Field Officer of the Day; John Hancock) [Tier 2]
- **C-63** Near-blank wrapper leaf, faint pencil 'S.1187-AP-1863' [Tier 4]
- **C-64** Telegram, American Telegraph Co., dated Trenton N.J. Nov 30 1863 to Lt Col D.L. Stricker (message 'Fathers dead Come immediately - Mrs Stricker') [Tier 2]
- **C-65** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 899, Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Nov 15 1863 (details Lt Col Stricker field officer of the day) [Tier 4]
- **C-66** Special Orders No. 899, Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Nov 15 1863 (Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Field Officer of the Day; John Hancock) [Tier 2]
- **C-67** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 25, Hd Qrs Right Grand Division Falmouth Dec 2 62 (Leave of absence granted to Lt Col Striker [sic]) [Tier 4]
- **C-68** Special Orders No. 25, Hd Qrs Right Grand Division Falmouth Dec 2 1862 (20 days leave on surgeon's certificate to Lt Col D.L. Striker [sic] 2 Del Vols; by command Maj Gen Sumner) [Tier 2]
- **C-69** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 928, Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Dec 3 1863 (details Lt Col Stricker field officer of the day) [Tier 4]
- **C-70** Special Orders No. 928, Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Dec 3 1863 (Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Field Officer of the Day; John Hancock) [Tier 2]
- **C-71** Endorsement sheet, Application for leave of absence, Hd Qrs 2nd Del Vols Dec 4 1863 (D.L. Stricker Lt Colonel; S.O. 310; Brooke, Caldwell, Warren endorsements) [Tier 3]
- **C-72** Personal letter, Stricker to Chas P. Hatch (AAAG), Hd Quarters 2nd Del Vol Dec 4 1863 (reports 'my father is Dead' by telegram; asks 15 days leave; autograph) [Tier 1]
- **C-73** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 310, Hd Qrs Army of the Potomac Dec 5 1863 (grants leave 10 days to Lt Col Stricker) [Tier 4]
- **C-74** Special Orders No. 310, Hd Quarters Army of the Potomac Dec 5 1863 (leave 10 days to Lt Col D.L. Striker [sic]; by command Maj Gen Meade; S Williams; official Francis A. Walker) [Tier 2]
- **C-75** Near-blank wrapper leaf, pencil 'S.O. #310, Dec 5 1863, HQ A of the P.' [Tier 4]
- **C-76** Special Orders No. 310 (fair copy/duplicate of C-74) with cascade of official endorsements [Tier 2]
- **C-77** Surgeon's certificate, U.S. Genl Hospital Newton University, Lexington St Baltimore Md Dec 15 1863 (Lt Col Striker [sic] 2nd Del Vol, haemorrhoids, unfit 10 days; Colby Jones, Surgeon in charge Hospital; reading uncertain) [Tier 2]
- **C-78** Docket slip, Special Orders No. 60, Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Jan 20 1864 (details Lt Col Stricker corps officer of the day) [Tier 4]
- **C-79** Special Orders No. 60, Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Jan 20 1864 (Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed as Corps Officer of the Day; John Hancock) [Tier 2]

- **C-80** Pay voucher, Pay Dept USA Jany 25 1864 (paid D.S. Stricker Lt Col \$140.96 in full Dec 1 to Dec 31 1863; Paymaster Riche) [Tier 2]
- **C-81** Near-blank wrapper leaf, pencil 'S.O. #60 Jan 20 64 1st Div' [Tier 4]
- **C-82** Special Orders No. 60 (fair copy/duplicate of C-79; Bvt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Corps Officer of the Day; John Hancock; official Jno D. Black) [Tier 2]
- **C-83** Casualty Sheet (D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Regiment of Delaware; nature 'Killed May 12 1864') [Tier 2]
- **C-84** Casualty Sheet (full form) (D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Delaware Inf; killed in action; date May 12 1864, place Not Stated; source Report of Casualties, Regtl Commd'n & Staff Officers 4 Brig 1 Div 2 Corps; Army Register reports killed at Spotsylvania; certified 1876) [Tier 2]
- **C-85** Casualty Sheet (D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2 Regt Del Infy; 'Killed May 12 1864') [Tier 2]
- **C-86** Casualty Sheet (full form, First Div.) (D.S. Stricker, Lt Col, 2 Delaware Infy; killed; certified by Winfd S. Hancock; date May 12 1864, place Not Stated; source Nominal List of Officers Killed & Wounded during May 1864 in the 2nd A.C.; Army Register reports Lt Col David S. Stricker [sic] killed at Spotsylvania May 12 1864; clerk W.S. Burton, Feby 17-86) [Tier 2]
- **C-87** Fold3 source information page (Stricker, David L; 2d Delaware Infantry; age 21, year 1861; estimated birth 1839–1840; NARA M1961, RG 94) [Tier 4]

Part B — Pension Document Inventory

- **P-1** Pension jacket wrapper (pencil: Box #31746, Bundle #35, Cert #30411, Sarah M Stricker) [Tier 4]
- **P-2** Brief in the case of Sarah M. Stricker, widow of David L. Stricker Lt Col 2d Delaware Vols, Kent Co., Del.; Act of July 14 1862; claim for Widow's Pension; 'Rolls show muster 13th Nov 62 & "Killed in action while commanding 53d Pa vol at Spotsylvania May 12th 64"'; record evidence of marriage; no children; admitted 13 Sept 1864 to pension of \$30.00/mo commencing May 12th 1864 [Tier 2]
- **P-3** Widow's Declaration for Pension (State of Delaware, Kent County; June 1 1864; Sarah M. Stricker, aged 25; widow of David L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del Vols commanded by Col Wm P. Bailey; maiden name Sarah M. Smith; married on or about March 3 1864 at Philadelphia by Rev. Samuel W. Thomas M.E. Church; husband died at/near Spotsylvania Court House Va on or about May 12 1864 of a wound received in battle; no children; appoints Henry W. Draper attorney) [Tier 1]
- **P-4** Continuation & witness clause of declaration (witnesses Albert Cowgill and James Dunning of Dover; sworn before William Sharp, Prothonotary, June 1 1864; endorsement panel 'Application of Mrs Sarah M. Stricker, widow of...') [Tier 1]
- **P-5** Adjutant General's Office letter, Washington Sep 5 1864 (David L. Stricker enrolled 13 Nov 1862 at Warrenton Va, 2 Regt Del Vols, mustered as Lt Col from 13 Nov 1862 at Falmouth Va, to serve 3 yrs from May 21 1861; on F&S Muster Roll May & June 1864 reported 'Killed in action while comdg 55 Pa Vols at Spotsylvania May 12 1864'; Pension application No. 53845) [Tier 2]
- **P-6** Certified copy of marriage record, St. Paul's M.E. Church (March 3 1864, David L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del Vol to Miss Sarah M. Smith, both of Dover Delaware; certified by S. W. Thomas, Pastor; affirmed before alderman/JP Philadelphia June 1864) [Tier 1]
- **P-7** Consular/Prothonotary certification, State of Pennsylvania, County of Philadelphia (George Kelly, Prothonotary, certifies Daniel F. Hood was Alderman/JP; June 1864) [Tier 2]
- **P-8** Continuation of authentication (jurat clause certifying affiant credible; signed Danl F. Hood, Alderman ex-officio JP) [Tier 2]

- **P-9** Pensioner Dropped notice, U.S. Pension Agency Philadelphia, Jan 21 1911 (Cert No. 30,411; Class Widow, Civil War; Sarah M. Stricker, soldier David L. Stricker, Lt Col; last paid \$30 to Nov 4 1910; dropped because of death on Jan 12 1911) [Tier 2]
- **P-10** Reverse of dropped notice (Pension Office & Finance Division stamps, JAN 23 1911) [Tier 4]
- **P-11** Certificate/docket jacket, No. 30,411 (Delaware; Sarah M. Stricker widow of David L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Del Vol; transferred Ex. Order May 7 '77 to Philadelphia; rate \$30/mo commencing May 12 '64; stamped DEAD; certificate dated Sept 16th '64, sent to H.W. Draper Dover Del; Act 14th July 1862; Book B Vol 1 Page 59) [Tier 2]
- **P-12** Reverse of docket jacket (stamps: DROPPED Jan 21 1911, Auditor advised of Death; JAN 27 1911; FEB 4 1911 Act March 3 1895 cir to Isaac J. Windle atty) [Tier 4]
- **P-13** Pension Office reference slip, No. 53845 (Act of July 14 1862; Sarah M. Stricker Kent Co Del, wid of David L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del vols, killed at Spotsylvania CH Va May 12 1864; referred to Adjutant General for evidence; Commissioner Joseph H. Barrett; received June 9 1864, atty Henry W. Draper Dover Delaware) [Tier 3]
- **P-14** Wrapper/endorsement leaf (pencil 'Augt. 31-64-A.G.') [Tier 4]
- **P-15** Notice of transfer of pension agency, Form 48 General Law, U.S. Pension Agency Nov 15 1899 (name Sarah M. Stricker (wid David L.), Cert No. 30411, transferred to Philadelphia Pa rolls per Executive Order May 7 1877; Sidney L. Willson, Agent) [Tier 2]
- **P-16** Letter, Windle Supply Company (Isaac J. Windle), Philadelphia Jan 31 1911 (executor of estate of Sarah M. Stricker; states she was widow of Lieut. Col. David L. Stricker, cert 386-30411 dated Sept 16 1864; died January 12 1911; last pension paid Nov 4 1910; asks whether estate entitled to accrued pension) [Tier 3]
- **P-17** Reverse of Windle letter (Pension Office & Finance Division stamps, FEB 1911) [Tier 4]
- **P-18** Fold3 source information page (Stricker, David L; 2 Del Infantry, Co F and S; Application No. WC30411; pensioner Stricker, Sarah M Smith, widow; RG 15) [Tier 4]

Genealogical Summary

The soldier. David L. Stricker (also spelled Stryker in a few army records), of Dover, Kent County, Delaware. Age 21 at muster-in on 12 June 1861 (implied birth 1839–1840; the Fold3 index calculates 1839–1840). He enrolled May 21, 1861 at Dover. Killed in action May 12, 1864 at Spotsylvania, Virginia.

The marriage. David L. Stricker married Sarah M. Smith on March 3, 1864 at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the ceremony performed by Rev. Samuel W. Thomas; both parties given as 'of Dover, Delaware.' The marriage is proven by a certified extract from the church register (P-6) — record evidence, as the brief notes.

Children. None. Both the widow's declaration (P-3) and the pension brief (P-2) state the husband left no children.

The widow. Sarah M. Stricker, née Sarah M. Smith, aged 25 in June 1864 (implied birth ~1838–1839). Post office Dover, Kent County, Delaware; later removed to the Philadelphia agency. She never remarried and drew the widow's pension at \$30/month until her death on January 12, 1911. Her estate was administered by executor Isaac J. Windle of Philadelphia.

Combined Service & Claim Timeline

- **21 May 1861** — Enrolled at Dover, Del., for 3 years [C-2, C-13, C-26, P-5]
- **12 Jun 1861** — Mustered in as Captain, roll dated Wilmington, Del. [C-2]

- **May–Aug 1861** — Present but sick [C-3]
- **Oct 1861** — Absent sick at Cambridge, Md. [C-4, C-25]
- **25 Feb 1862** — Writes Major Judd re recruiting reimbursement, from Camp Wilkes near Middletown/Drummondtown Va [C-30, C-31]
- **Jul 1862** — Present sick at Harrison's Landing [C-25]
- **30 Sep 1862** — Applies for 20 days leave (remittent fever), Harpers Ferry [C-32, C-33, C-35]
- **3 Oct 1862** — Detailed to General Court Martial, S.O. 113, Hancock's Division [C-36, C-37]
- **13 Nov 1862** — Discharged as Captain / commissioned & enrolled Lieutenant Colonel at Warrenton Va [C-12, C-13, C-15, C-39, P-5]; muster-out roll dated Nov 24 1862 [C-26]
- **25 Nov 1862** — Regimental Order No. 6 announces his promotion [C-39]
- **29 Nov 1862** — Applies for 30 days sick leave (chronic diarrhoea), Falmouth [C-40, C-41, C-43]
- **2 Dec 1862** — Granted 20 days leave, S.O. 25, Right Grand Division [C-67, C-68]
- **Jan–Feb 1863** — Present (F&S) [C-14]
- **25 Feb 1863** — Detailed to try prisoners, S.O. 11 [C-44]
- **10 Apr 1863** — Present on Special Muster Roll [C-17]
- **9 May 1863** — Applies for 10 days leave [C-45, C-46]; reported absent on leave May 24 [C-47, C-48]
- **24 May 1863** — Detailed Field Officer of the Day, S.O. 428 [C-49, C-50]
- **2 Jul 1863** — Wounded (slight) at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa. [C-18, C-56, C-57, C-58]
- **5 Jul 1863** — Examined at Baltimore, unfit 20 days from wounds [C-52]
- **7 Jul 1863** — Reports himself wounded, at Dover [C-53]
- **8 Jul 1863** — Paid \$342.10 for May 1–June 30 1863 [C-55]
- **6 Aug 1863** — Reported returned to duty [C-59, C-60]
- **6 Nov 1863** — Detailed Field Officer of the Day, S.O. 884 [C-61, C-62]
- **15 Nov 1863** — Detailed Field Officer of the Day, S.O. 899 [C-65, C-66]
- **30 Nov 1863** — Telegram from Mrs. Stricker: 'Fathers dead. Come immediately' [C-64]
- **3 Dec 1863** — Detailed Field Officer of the Day, S.O. 928 [C-69, C-70]
- **4 Dec 1863** — Applies for 15 days leave, father dead [C-71, C-72]
- **5 Dec 1863** — Granted 10 days leave, S.O. 310 (Army of the Potomac) [C-73, C-74, C-76]
- **15 Dec 1863** — Examined at Baltimore hospital, haemorrhoids, unfit 10 days [C-77]
- **20 Jan 1864** — Detailed Corps Officer of the Day, S.O. 60 [C-78, C-79, C-82]
- **25 Jan 1864** — Paid \$140.96 for December 1863 [C-80]
- **Jan–Feb 1864** — Detached on recruiting service, Delaware [C-22, C-25]
- **Mar–Apr 1864** — Present (F&S) [C-23]
- **12 May 1864** — Killed in action at Spotsylvania, Va., while commanding 53rd Pa. Vols [C-24, C-83, C-84, C-85, C-86]; the AGO letter says '55 Pa Vols' [P-5]
- **1 Jun 1864** — Widow Sarah M. Stricker executes declaration for pension at Dover [P-3, P-4]
- **9 Jun 1864** — Pension Office refers claim (No. 53845) to Adjutant General [P-13]
- **5 Sep 1864** — AGO confirms service and death [P-5]
- **13 Sep 1864** — Claim admitted; pension \$30/mo commencing May 12 1864 [P-2]
- **16 Sep 1864** — Certificate No. 30,411 dated, sent to atty H.W. Draper [P-11]
- **7 May 1877 / 15 Nov 1899** — Pension transferred to Philadelphia agency [P-11, P-15]
- **4 Nov 1910** — Last pension payment to the widow [P-9]
- **12 Jan 1911** — Sarah M. Stricker dies [P-9, P-16]
- **21 Jan 1911** — Dropped from the rolls because of death [P-9, P-12]

- **31 Jan 1911** — Executor Isaac J. Windle inquires about accrued pension [P-16]

Named Social Network

Military — commanders and staff: - **Col. William P. Baily (Bailey)** — Colonel, 2nd Delaware; the man Stricker succeeded in field rank and who announced his promotion [C-39, C-44, C-45, C-48, P-3] - **Lt. Wm. H. Brady** — Adjutant, 2nd Del. Vols; addressee of leave applications [C-41, C-46] - **Philip M. Plunkett** — Asst. Surgeon, 2nd Regt D.V.; certified remittent fever [C-35] - **David H. Houston** — Surgeon, 2nd Del. Vol.; certified chronic diarrhoea [C-43] - **Colby Jones** — Surgeon in charge, U.S. Genl Hospital Newton University, Baltimore (reading uncertain) [C-77] - **Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock** — certified a casualty sheet [C-86]; also (as division commander earlier) [C-37, C-40] - **Brig. Gen. John C. Caldwell** — division commander ordering details [C-71, C-79 etc.] - **Maj. John Hancock** — A.A.G., signer of numerous special orders [C-50, C-62, C-66, C-70, C-79, C-60] - **Col. John R. Brooke** — brigade commander, forwarding endorsements [C-45, C-47, C-60, C-71] - **Col. S. K. Zook** — brigade commander endorsing leave [C-40] - **Maj. Gen. D. N. Couch** — corps commander endorsing leave [C-40] - **W. Mitchell** — A.D.C. & A.A.A.G., signed S.O. 113 [C-37] - **Chas. P. Hatch** — Lt. & A.A.A.G., addressee of report [C-48, C-72] - **Maj. Gen. Sumner / J. H. Taylor**, Chief of Staff — S.O. 25 [C-68] - **Maj. Gen. Meade / S. Williams**, A.A.G. / **Francis A. Walker**, A.A.G. — S.O. 310 [C-74, C-76] - **G. W. Chase, Jarvis, Daggett, Harmon, O'Leary, W. L. Couston, Joslyn** — CMSR copyists [various C cards] - **Paymasters Taggart and Riche** — paid Stricker [C-55, C-80] - **Maj. Judd** — U.S. Army officer at Wilmington, addressee of recruiting-money letter [C-31] - **Hon. Edwin M. Stanton** — Secretary of War, addressee of a leave application [C-33]

Pension claim: - **Henry W. Draper**, of Dover, Kent Co., Del. — the widow's attorney/agent [P-2, P-3, P-11, P-13] - **Rev. Samuel W. Thomas** — pastor of St. Paul's M.E. Church, Philadelphia, who performed the marriage and certified the record [P-3, P-6] - **Albert Cowgill** and **James Dunning** — residents of Dover, witnesses to the widow's declaration [P-4] - **William Sharp** — Prothonotary, Kent Co., before whom the declaration was sworn [P-4] - **George Kelly** — Prothonotary, Philadelphia Co. [P-7] - **Daniel F. Hood** — Alderman & ex-officio JP, Philadelphia, before whom the marriage affidavit was affirmed [P-7, P-8] - **Joseph H. Barrett** — Commissioner of Pensions [P-13] - **Sidney L. Willson** — U.S. Pension Agent [P-15] - **Isaac J. Windle** (Windle Supply Company) — executor of Sarah M. Stricker's estate, Philadelphia [P-12, P-16]

Source Conflicts & Discrepancies

- **[SOURCE CONFLICT] Surname spelling: Stricker vs. Stryker.** The overwhelming majority of records — the jacket, muster rolls, the soldier's own autograph letters (C-31, C-33, C-41, C-46, C-53, C-72), the pension papers, and the marriage record — spell it **Stricker**. A minority of army casualty and order documents spell it **Stryker** (C-52, C-53 docket, C-86, and several 'Striker' variants at C-49, C-67, C-68, C-74). Adjudicated to **Stricker**, on the soldier's own signature. (Minor variant — noted, not weighted.)
- **[SOURCE CONFLICT] Which Pennsylvania regiment he was commanding when killed: 53rd vs. 55th.** The CMSR F&S roll (C-24) and the pension brief (P-2) say he was 'commanding **53** Pa Vols'; the AGO letter in the pension file (P-5) says '**55** Pa Vols.' Both agree on the date, place, and fact of death. Neither self-evidently outweighs the other; the death itself is not in doubt.
- **[SOURCE CONFLICT] Age / implied birth year.** Muster-in June 1861 gives age 21 (implied birth 1839–1840) [C-2]; the individual muster-in and muster-out of Nov 1862 give age 22 (implied birth ~1840) [C-13, C-26] — internally consistent. The widow's declaration gives her own age as 25

in June 1864 (implied birth ~1838–1839) [P-3]; this is the claimant's age, not the soldier's. No material drift in the soldier's own age.

- **[SOURCE CONFLICT] Promotion-to-Lt-Col date on the muster-out card.** Most records date the promotion/enrollment as Lt. Col. to **13 Nov 1862** [C-12, C-13, C-15, C-39, P-5]. The company muster-out roll (C-28) remarks 'Promoted to Lieut Col **Nov 23 1863**' — a clerk's error inconsistent with every other document. Adjudicated to **13 Nov 1862** (the individual muster-in roll and AGO letter are the authoritative sources; the Nov 23 1863 date is a copyist slip).
- **[SOURCE CONFLICT] Rank stated on S.O. 428 (24 May 1863).** The printed order (C-50) names 'Lt. D.L. Stricker'; the file's own docket (C-49) corrects it: 'Should be Lt Col D L Stricker not Lt.' Adjudicated to **Lieutenant Colonel** (the contemporaneous correction, and all surrounding records).
- **[SOURCE CONFLICT] Wounding severity vs. leave duration.** Casualty sheet C-58 records the Gettysburg wound as 'slight,' yet the surgeon certified him unfit for 20 days (C-52). Not a true contradiction, but noted.
- **Certificate number variant.** The Windle letter (P-16) cites the certificate as '386-30411'; every formal record gives **30,411** [P-2, P-9, P-11, P-15]. The '386' appears to be an agency/book prefix. Adjudicated to formal number **30,411**.

The Law Behind the Pension

Act of July 14, 1862 (the 'General Law', 12 Stat. 566). This is the sole act the file cites and adjudicates under, named expressly on the brief (P-2), the certificate jacket (P-11), and the Pension Office reference slip (P-13). Under §§2–4, where a soldier's death resulted from a wound received in service and in the line of duty, his widow was entitled to a pension at the total-disability rate for the soldier's **rank**. Stricker was a Lieutenant Colonel; the widow was accordingly admitted at **\$30 per month** — the officer's rate, not the \$8 private's rate — commencing from the date of death, May 12, 1864 (P-2, P-11). The proofs the act requires are exactly those the file contains: the widow's sworn declaration of marriage, widowhood, and no children (P-3); record evidence of the marriage (P-6); and official evidence of service and death from the Adjutant General (P-5).

No later act reshaped this claim. Because the widow already drew the officer's \$30 rate under the 1862 law, the rate-floor acts of the widows' cascade (1886's \$12 floor, 1916's \$20 rate) never reached her — \$30 already exceeded them. The pension ran unchanged at \$30 for over forty-six years until her death.

No disloyalty question arises. This is a Union officer's widow; §4716 and the loyalty bar are not implicated anywhere in the file.

Research Gaps

What this file establishes about who the soldier was. The identity anchors here are strong and specific: **David L. Stricker**, Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) of Company A / Field & Staff, 2nd Delaware Infantry; enrolled 21 May 1861 at **Dover, Delaware**, aged 21 (implied birth 1839–1840); resident of Dover, Kent County; wounded at Gettysburg 2 July 1863; killed at Spotsylvania 12 May 1864; married **Sarah M. Smith** at Philadelphia on 3 March 1864; his father died in late November 1863 (the telegram, C-64); no children. His own signature survives on several letters.

What the file cannot establish. Matching this David L. Stricker to a specific family line — his parents, birthplace, or descent — requires records **outside** this file: census, Kent County and Philadelphia church, probate, and land records. Same-named men of the same era are common;

nothing here confirms any particular customer's descent. The report reads the file; the family connection is a correlation task it cannot perform.

Specific unresolved points and where to look: - Birthplace and parents. The CMSR carries no volunteer enlistment paper or descriptive card giving a birthplace, and the pension file gives none.

Look to the 1850/1860 Delaware census (Kent County) and Dover church records. The Nov 1863 telegram announcing his father's death (C-64) confirms his father was living in/near Trenton, N.J. in 1863 — a lead worth pursuing in New Jersey and Delaware records. - **The 53rd vs. 55th**

Pennsylvania question. The Official Records and the regimental histories of the 53rd and 55th Pennsylvania (not consulted here — no web access) would resolve which regiment he was commanding at Spotsylvania. - **The accrued-pension inquiry (1911).** The executor Isaac J. Windle asked whether

the estate was owed pension from Nov 4 1910 to Jan 12 1911 (P-16); the file does not show the Bureau's answer. An heirs'/accrued-pension application under the Act of March 3, 1895 (cited in the docket, P-12) may exist separately. - **Carded Medical Records (RG 94)** would give fuller detail of the

Gettysburg wound and the several sick leaves. - **Sarah M. Smith's own family.** Her maiden name, age (~25 in 1864), and Dover residence are given, but nothing of her parents; Kent County records would be the next step.

Regimental History

The 2nd Regiment Delaware Volunteer Infantry — the Union regiment in which this company served — was organized at Wilmington, Delaware, and mustered into United States service for a three-year term. The regiment's organization date was May 21, 1861, and because there was no state system to aid organization, some companies were recruited from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Elkton, Maryland; it was formally assembled at Wilmington, Delaware, from June 12 to October 7, 1861.

Nicknamed the "Crazy Delawares," it served in the Army of the Potomac, ultimately in the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, II Corps. After duty at Baltimore, the regiment joined the Army of the Potomac on the Peninsula in June 1862 and fought through the Seven Days before Richmond, including Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, Glendale, and Malvern Hill.

It went on to fight at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, the regiment advanced across the Wheatfield Road and into Rose Woods as part of Caldwell's division. It then served through the Bristoe and Mine Run campaigns and the 1864 Overland Campaign at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg.

The regiment was mustered out July 1, 1864, at the expiration of its term, and remaining veterans and recruits were transferred to the 1st Delaware Infantry. _Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Delaware_Infantry_Regiment;

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/2nd_Regiment,_Delaware_Infantry_\(Union\)](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/2nd_Regiment,_Delaware_Infantry_(Union));

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=UDE0002RI>;

<https://gettysburg.stonesentinels.com/union-monuments/delaware/2nd-delaware/>;

https://antietam.aotw.org/officers.php?unit_id=337_

(This regimental history was verified by web search. Everything else in this report is drawn only from the soldier's own file.)

Artifacts in the File

The file holds more than paperwork. These pages are reproduced here exactly as they were filed — a caption beneath each tells you what the record itself says about it, and nothing more.

Major Judd
Camp Wilkes
Near Drummondtown Va
Feb 25/62
Dear Sir
Having spent considerable money recruiting men for my company I would like to know if I can get it back others have but I have never known who to apply to for it. I have heard that you had money to disburse the cost of recruiting if you have I wish you would let me know how the proper way would be for me to get it. I very much Oblige
Very Respectfully Yours
D L Stricker
Capt-Comdg Co A 2nd Reg 2d
Major Judd U S A
Wilmington Del

Plate 1 — letter (soldier's own hand) (page 31). inscribed/captioned: "D L Stricker Capt Comdg Co A 2nd Reg 2d". Autograph letter, Camp Wilkes near Drummondtown Va, Feb 25/62, to Major Judd re recovery of recruiting money; Tier 1 for name spelling.

Harpers Ferry Va
Sept 30th/62

Hon Edwin M Stanton
Secretary War

Sir I
herely make application for
a leave of absence for
twenty days for reasons
stated in the enclosed
Surgeons certificate hoping
the indulgence may be
granted me I am Sir
Very Respectfully your
Obl Servt

David L Stricker
Capt 2nd Rg Del vol

H. Hon. Edwin M Stanton
Secretary War
Washington D.C

Plate 2 — letter (soldier's own hand) (page 33). inscribed/captioned: "David L Stricker Capt 2nd Rg Del vol". Autograph application to Secretary of War Stanton, Harpers Ferry Va Sept 30/62, for 20 days leave; Tier 1.

Head Quarters 2nd Del. Vols
Camp near Falmouth Va. Nov 29th 1862

Lt. Wm. H. Brady
Adj. 2nd Del. Vols.

I do most respectfully
make application for a leave of absence
for thirty days; in order to go to my
home, and try to recruit my health.

Enclosed you will please find a
certificate from Dr. Harrison the Sur-
geon of the regt to which I belong.

In the certificate you will find
the nature of my disease stated; and
also, the opinion of the surgeons, as re-
lates to my case.

I am very respectfully
David L. Stricker
Lt. Col. 2nd Del. Vols.

Plate 3 — letter (soldier's own hand) (page 41). inscribed/captioned: "David L. Stricker Lt. Col. 2nd Del. Vols.". Autograph leave application to Adj. Wm H. Brady, Camp near Falmouth Va Nov 29 1862; Tier 1.

Wm H. Brady
Lieut & Act. Adj't.

Head Quarters 2nd Reg. Del. Vols.
Camp near Falmouth Va. May 9/63

Sir,

I most respectfully ask for a leave
of absence for ten days, to visit my home having never
been absent under General Orders No 3 on account of
both the other field Officers being away from wounds,
Col. Bailey having now returned

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

D. L. Stricker

Lieut Col 2nd Del Vol

Plate 4 — letter (soldier's own hand) (page 46). inscribed/captioned: "D. L. Stricker Lieut Col 2nd Del vol".
Autograph leave request, Camp near Falmouth Va May 9/63; mentions other field officers absent from wounds;
Tier 1.

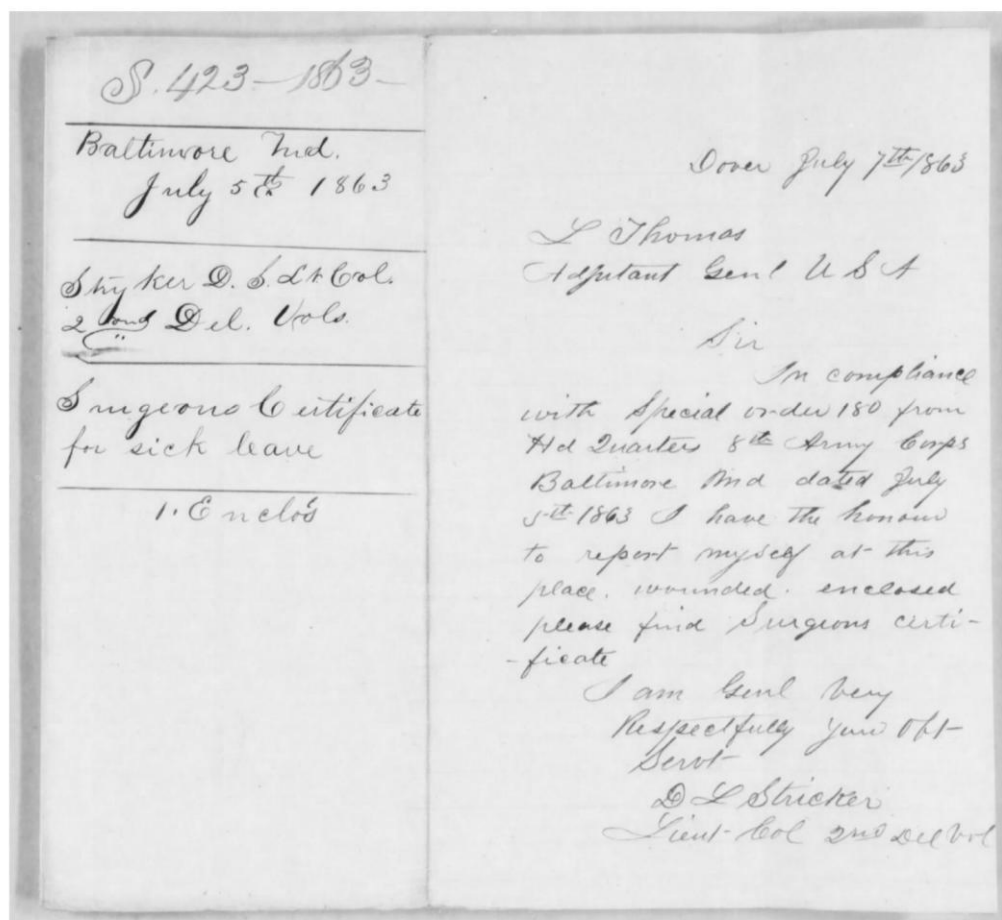


Plate 5 — letter (soldier's own hand) (page 53). inscribed/captioned: "D L Stricker Lieut Col 2nd Del Vol". Autograph report to AGO L. Thomas, Dover July 7 1863, reporting himself wounded; docket spells 'Stryker'; Tier

The American Telegraph Company.
PRINTING AND MORSE LINES.

DIRECT TO ALL STATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.

OFFICES.—432 Pennsylvania Av., U. S. CAPITOL and Willard's
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In order to guard against errors or delays in the transmission or delivery of messages, every message of importance ought to be REPEATED by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message and while this Company will, as heretofore, use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for errors or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond FIFTY dollars, unless a special agreement for insurance be made and paid for at the time of sending the message, and the amount of risk specified on this agreement; nor is the Company to be responsible for any error or delay in the transmission or delivery of non-repeated messages, BEYOND FIVE DOLLARS, unless in like manner specially insured and amount of risk paid for at the time. No liability is assumed for any error or omission by any other Company over whose lines this message may be sent to reach its destination. No liability for any errors in cipher messages.

CAMBRIDGE LIVINGSTON, Sec'y, E. S. SANFORD, Pres't,
145 BROADWAY N. Y.

1 Dated Trenton N.J. Nov 30 1863.

Rec'd, Washington, 30 Nov 1863, o'clock, min. M.

To Lt Col D.L. Stricker

2^d Regt Del. Vols
1st Div. 2^d Corps A.Pat

Fathers dead Come
immediately -
Mrs Stricker

4. / 5-

Plate 6 — telegram (page 64). inscribed/captioned: "Fathers dead Come immediately - Mrs Stricker". American Telegraph Company message, dated Trenton N.J. Nov 30 1863, to Lt Col D.L. Stricker; the emotional heart of the file — announces his father's death and prompts his December leave.

Head Quarters
 2nd Del vol
 Dec 4th / 1863
 Chas P Hatch
 Lt & a.a.g.
 Sir
 I have
 Just recd a telegram that
 my father is dead & respec-
 -tfully ask that a leave of
 absence for 15 days may be
 granted me
 Very Respectfully
 Your obt. Servt
 D L Stricker
 Lt Col 2nd Del vol
 Command

Plate 7 — letter (soldier's own hand) (page 72). inscribed/captioned: "D L Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del vol Commdg".
 Autograph leave request to Chas P. Hatch, Dec 4 1863, stating 'I have just recd a telegram that my father is
 Dead'; Tier 1; ties to the telegram at page 64.

Document Inventory

Page	Document Type	Summary
1	C-1 Jacket cover / card index	Indexed as Stricker, David S. [sic]; Co. A & F&S, 2 Delaware Inf.; Captain and Lieut. Colonel; 28 personal papers; Book Mark

		Den-80-1866.
2	C-2 Company Muster-in Roll	Captain; roll dated Wilmington Del 12 Jun 1861; muster-in to date 12 Jun 1861; enrolled May 21 at Dover; age 21; 3 yrs; bounty \$100.
3	C-3 Company Muster Roll May 21–Aug 1861	Captain; present/absent 'Signed Roll'; remarks 'Sick'; note capt. shows him present sick.
4	C-4 Company Muster Roll dated Oct 31 1861	Captain; 'Absent at Cambridge Md.'
5	C-5 Company Muster Roll Nov & Dec 1861	Captain; present (signed roll).
6	C-6 Company Muster Roll July & Aug 1862	Captain; present.
7	C-7 Company Muster Roll Jan & Feb 1862	Captain; present.
8	C-8 Company Muster Roll Mch & Apl 1862	Captain; present.
9	C-9 Company Muster Roll May & June 1862	Captain; present.
10	C-10 Company Muster Roll Sept & Oct 1862	Captain; present.
11	C-11 Field & Staff Muster Roll Nov–Dec 1862	Lt. Col.; absent; 'Appointed Lieut Col Vice Baily promoted; Absent sick'; horse valuations.
12	C-12 Company Muster Roll Nov & Dec 1862	Captain; remarks 'Discharged Nov 13/62'.
13	C-13 Individual Muster-in Roll	Lt. Col.; roll dated near Falmouth Va Nov 24 1862; enrolled Nov 13 1862 at Warrenton Va; age 22; 3 yrs from May 21 1861; with rank from Nov 13/62.
14	C-14 Field & Staff Muster Roll Jany & Feby 1863	Lt. Col.; present; horse valuations.
15	C-15 Company Muster Roll Jan & Feb 1863	Captain; remarks 'Discharged by reason of promotion Nov. 13/62'.
16	C-16 Field & Staff Muster Roll Mar & Apl 1863	Lt. Col.; present.
17	C-17 Special Muster Roll of F&S Apr 10 1863	Lt. Col.; present; remarks about being absent 'on loan from War Dept' (partly uncertain).
18	C-18 Field & Staff Muster Roll May & June 1863	Lt. Col.; absent; 'Absent from wounds recd at battle Gettysburg July 2, 1863'; from Second Auditor's Roll.
19	C-19 Field & Staff Muster Roll July & Aug 1863	Lt. Col.; present.
20	C-20 Field & Staff Muster Roll Sept & Oct 1863	Lt. Col.; present.
21	C-21 Field & Staff Muster Roll	Lt. Col.; present.

	Nov & Dec 1863	
22	C-22 Field & Staff Muster Roll Jany & Feby 1864	Lt. Col.; absent; 'Detached on Recruiting service Delaware'.
23	C-23 Field & Staff Muster Roll Mar & Apl 1864	Lt. Col.; present.
24	C-24 Field & Staff Muster Roll Feby 29–June 30 1864	Lt. Col.; remarks 'Killed in action while commanding 53 Pa Vols at Spottsylvania May 12 1864'.
25	C-25 Returns card	Present/absent summary Sept 1861–Apr 1864; sick Cambridge Md Oct 61, sick Harrison's Landing July 62, wounded July 63, detached recruiting Jan–Mar 64.
26	C-26 Individual Muster-out Roll	Captain, Co. A; age 22; roll dated near Falmouth Va Nov 24 1862; muster-out to date Nov 24 1862; last paid Aug 31 1862; discharged to accept Lt Col commission.
27	C-27 Jacket back / stamp	Stamp JAN 21 1892; number 15485653; note 'Copy furnished Adj't Gen'l State of Del June 25, 1866'.
28	C-28 Company Muster-out Roll	Captain; roll dated Wilmington Del July 1 1864; last paid Not Known; remarks 'Promoted to Lieut Col Nov 23 1863' (conflicting date).
29	C-29 Jacket enclosure list	Stricker David L., Lt Col, Co F, 2 Reg't Del Inf; 28 enclosures itemized (Med Certificates 4, Orders 12, Casualty Sheet 3, etc.).
30	C-30 Wrapper of recruiting-reimbursement paper	Camp Wilkes near Middletown Feb 25 1862; 'Relating to Reimbursements of Money for Recruiting, Capt D L Stricker'; 1899 refile stamp.
31	C-31 Personal letter, Stricker to Maj Judd	Camp Wilkes near Drummondtown Va Feb 25/62; asks about recovery of recruiting money; autograph signature.
32	C-32 Endorsement/brief slip	Harper's Ferry Sept 30/62; Capt asks 20 days leave; 1 enclosure; docket S.1658 Oct 4 1862.
33	C-33 Personal letter, Stricker to Sec. War Stanton	Harpers Ferry Va Sept 30/62; application for 20 days leave per enclosed surgeon's certificate; autograph.
34	C-34 Blank/wrapper leaf	Near-blank; docket 'S.1658.

		Octr 1862' with show-through.
35	C-35 Surgeon's certificate (Plunkett)	Philip M. Plunkett, Asst Surg 2nd Regt D.V.; Capt D.L. Stricker; remittent fever; unfit 20 days.
36	C-36 Docket slip S.O. 113	Hd Qrs Hancock's Division Oct 3 1862; Capt D.L. Stricker appointed on court martial, 2 Del.
37	C-37 Special Order No. 113	Hd Qrs Hancock's Div Bolivar Heights Oct 3 1862; Capt David L. Stricker detailed to General Court Martial; signed W. Mitchell.
38	C-38 Near-blank endorsement leaf	Faint pencil 'Regimental No 6 / Read Nov 26/62'.
39	C-39 Regimental Order No. 6	Hd Qrs 2nd Regt Del Vol near Falmouth Va Nov 25 1862; announces Capt D.L. Stricker commissioned Lt Col; by order Wm P. Bailly.
40	C-40 Endorsement sheet, sick-leave application	Nov 29–30 1862; Bailly, Zook, Hancock, Couch endorsements; approved 20 days; surgeon Dougherty recommendation.
41	C-41 Personal letter, Stricker to Lt Wm H. Brady	Camp near Falmouth Va Nov 29 1862; application for 30 days leave; encloses Dr. Houston's certificate; autograph.
42	C-42 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Faint pencil '1.S.11.'
43	C-43 Surgeon's certificate (Houston)	David H. Houston, Surgeon 2nd Del Vol, Falmouth Nov 29 1862; Lt Col Stricker, chronic diarrhoea, unfit 30 days, change of climate needed.
44	C-44 Special Order No. 11	Hd Qrs 2nd Regt Del Vol Feby 25/63; Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed to try prisoners under G.O. 91; Wm P Bailly.
45	C-45 Endorsement sheet, leave application May 1863	Bailly, Burnham, Brooke, Hancock endorsements; 'not indebted to the Comy Dept'.
46	C-46 Personal letter, Stricker to Wm H. Brady	Camp near Falmouth Va May 9/63; asks 10 days leave, other field officers away from wounds, Col Bailly returned; autograph.
47	C-47 Endorsement/brief slip 4th Brig	May 24/63; Bailly reports Lt Col Stricker absent on leave; forwarded by Brooke.
48	C-48 Letter, Bailly to Chas P. Hatch	Hd Qrs 2nd Del Vols May 24 1863; reports Lt Col D.L. Stricker absent on leave under G.O. No 3.

49	C-49 Docket slip S.O. 428	Hd Qrs 1st Division May 24/63; note 'Should be Lt Col D L Stricker not Lt as on'.
50	C-50 Special Order No. 428	Hd Qrs 1st Division May 24/63; Lt. D.L. Stricker detailed field officer of the day; John Hancock (rank misprinted).
51	C-51 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Faint pencil, largely illegible.
52	C-52 Surgeon's certificate, 8th Army Corps	Medical Director's Office, Baltimore July 5 1863; Lt Col D.S. Stryker [sic] 2nd Del Vols, wounded near Gettysburg, unfit 20 days.
53	C-53 Endorsement + letter to AGO	Dover July 7 1863; Stricker reports himself wounded per S.O. 180; docket 'Stryker D.S. Lt Col'; autograph.
54	C-54 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Pencil 'Entered on Rolls of May and June'.
55	C-55 Pay voucher	Pay Dept USA July 8 1863; paid D.L. Stricker Lt Col \$342.10 in full May 1–June 30 1863; Paymaster Taggart.
56	C-56 Casualty Sheet of Wounded	D.S. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Del Vols, Gettysburg Pa, July 2 1863.
57	C-57 Casualty Sheet of Wounded	Duplicate of page 56; D.S. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Del, Gettysburg July 2 1863.
58	C-58 Casualty Sheet (full form)	D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Delaware Inf; wounded slight, Gettysburg July 2 1863; source 4 Brig 1 Div 2 Corps report; remarks note Army Register: killed at Spotsylvania May 12 1864; certified Dec 17/84.
59	C-59 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Pencil 'D.L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del Vols'; 'Recd Hd Qrs 1st Div August 6 1863'.
60	C-60 Letter, Brooke to Maj John Hancock	Hd Qr 4th Brig Aug 6 1863; reports Lt Col D.L. Stricker reported for duty; date of muster Nov 13 1862; lately absent wounded.
61	C-61 Docket slip S.O. 884	Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d A.C. Nov 6 1863; Detail for Picket Duty; 2 Del.
62	C-62 Special Orders No. 884	Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Nov 6 1863; Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Field Officer of the Day; John Hancock.
63	C-63 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Faint pencil 'S.1187-AP-1863'.
64	C-64 Telegram, American Telegraph Co.	Dated Trenton N.J. Nov 30 1863 to Lt Col D.L. Stricker;

		message 'Fathers dead Come immediately - Mrs Stricker'.
65	C-65 Docket slip S.O. 899	Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Nov 15 1863; details Lt Col Stricker field officer of the day.
66	C-66 Special Orders No. 899	Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Nov 15 1863; Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Field Officer of the Day; John Hancock.
67	C-67 Docket slip S.O. 25	Hd Qrs Right Grand Division Falmouth Dec 2 62; Leave of absence granted to Lt Col Striker [sic].
68	C-68 Special Orders No. 25	Hd Qrs Right Grand Division Falmouth Dec 2 1862; 20 days leave on surgeon's certificate to Lt Col D.L. Striker [sic]; by command Maj Gen Sumner.
69	C-69 Docket slip S.O. 928	Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Dec 3 1863; details Lt Col Stricker field officer of the day.
70	C-70 Special Orders No. 928	Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Dec 3 1863; Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Field Officer of the Day; John Hancock.
71	C-71 Endorsement sheet, leave application	Hd Qrs 2nd Del Vols Dec 4 1863; D.L. Stricker Lt Colonel; S.O. 310; Brooke, Caldwell, Warren endorsements.
72	C-72 Personal letter, Stricker to Chas P. Hatch	Hd Quarters 2nd Del Vol Dec 4 1863; reports 'my father is Dead' by telegram; asks 15 days leave; autograph.
73	C-73 Docket slip S.O. 310	Hd Qrs Army of the Potomac Dec 5 1863; grants leave 10 days to Lt Col Stricker.
74	C-74 Special Orders No. 310	Hd Quarters Army of the Potomac Dec 5 1863; leave 10 days to Lt Col D.L. Striker [sic]; by command Maj Gen Meade; S Williams; Francis A. Walker.
75	C-75 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Pencil 'S.O. #310, Dec 5 1863, HQ A of the P.'
76	C-76 Special Orders No. 310 (fair copy)	Duplicate of page 74 with full cascade of official endorsements.
77	C-77 Surgeon's certificate, Newton Univ Hospital	Baltimore Md Dec 15 1863; Lt Col Striker [sic] 2nd Del Vol, haemorrhoids, unfit 10 days; Colby Jones, Surgeon in charge (reading uncertain).
78	C-78 Docket slip S.O. 60	Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Jan 20 1864; details Lt Col Stricker officer of the day.

79	C-79 Special Orders No. 60	Hd-Qrs 1st Division 2d Army Corps Jan 20 1864; Lt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Corps Officer of the Day; John Hancock.
80	C-80 Pay voucher	Pay Dept USA Jany 25 1864; paid D.S. Stricker Lt Col \$140.96 in full Dec 1–Dec 31 1863; Paymaster Riche.
81	C-81 Near-blank wrapper leaf	Pencil 'S.O. #60 Jan 20 64 1st Div'.
82	C-82 Special Orders No. 60 (fair copy)	Hd Qrs 1st Div 2d Corps Jan 20 1864; Bvt Col D.L. Stricker detailed Corps Officer of the Day; John Hancock; official Jno D. Black.
83	C-83 Casualty Sheet	D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Regiment of Delaware; 'Killed May 12 1864'.
84	C-84 Casualty Sheet (full form)	D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2d Delaware Inf; killed in action May 12 1864, place Not Stated; source 4 Brig 1 Div 2 Corps report; Army Register: killed at Spotsylvania; certified 1876.
85	C-85 Casualty Sheet	D.L. Stricker, Lt Col, 2 Regt Del Infy; 'Killed May 12 1864'.
86	C-86 Casualty Sheet (full form, First Div.)	D.S. Stricker [sic], Lt Col, 2 Delaware Infy; killed; certified Winfd S. Hancock; May 12 1864; source Nominal List of Officers Killed & Wounded May 1864 2nd A.C.; Army Register: David S. Stricker killed at Spotsylvania; clerk W.S. Burton Feb 17-86.
87	C-87 Fold3 source information page	Stricker, David L; 2d Delaware Infantry; age 21, year 1861; estimated birth 1839–1840; NARA M1961, RG 94.
88	P-1 Pension jacket wrapper	Pencil: Box #31746, Bundle #35, Cert #30411, Sarah M Stricker.
89	P-2 Brief in the case	Sarah M. Stricker, widow of David L. Stricker Lt Col 2d Del Vols; Act July 14 1862; widow's pension; rolls show muster 13 Nov 62 and killed at Spotsylvania May 12 64 while comdg 53 Pa vol; record evidence of marriage; no children; admitted 13 Sept 1864, \$30/mo commencing May 12 1864.
90	P-3 Widow's Declaration for	Kent County Del June 1 1864;

	Pension	Sarah M. Stricker aged 25, widow of David L. Stricker; maiden name Sarah M. Smith; married ~March 3 1864 at Philadelphia by Rev. Samuel W. Thomas; husband died ~May 12 1864 near Spotsylvania of wound; no children.
91	P-4 Continuation & witness clause of declaration	Witnesses Albert Cowgill and James Dunning of Dover; sworn before William Sharp, Prothonotary, June 1 1864; endorsement panel naming attorney Henry W. Draper.
92	P-5 Adjutant General's Office letter	Washington Sep 5 1864; David L. Stricker enrolled 13 Nov 1862 at Warrenton Va, mustered Lt Col from 13 Nov 1862 at Falmouth Va; reported killed in action while comdg 55 Pa Vols at Spotsylvania May 12 1864; application No. 53845.
93	P-6 Certified copy of marriage record	St. Paul's M.E. Church; March 3 1864, David L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del Vol to Miss Sarah M. Smith, both of Dover; certified by S. W. Thomas, Pastor; affirmed before alderman/JP Philadelphia.
94	P-7 Prothonotary certification (Pennsylvania)	George Kelly, Prothonotary, Philadelphia Co., certifies Daniel F. Hood was Alderman & ex-officio JP; June 1864.
95	P-8 Continuation of authentication	Jurat clause certifying affiant credible; signed Danl F. Hood, Alderman & ex-officio JP.
96	P-9 Pensioner Dropped notice	U.S. Pension Agency Philadelphia Jan 21 1911; Cert No. 30,411; Class Widow Civil War; Sarah M. Stricker, soldier David L. Stricker Lt Col; last paid \$30 to Nov 4 1910; dropped for death Jan 12 1911.
97	P-10 Reverse of dropped notice	Pension Office & Finance Division stamps, JAN 23 1911.
98	P-11 Certificate/docket jacket No. 30,411	Delaware; Sarah M. Stricker widow of David L. Stricker Lt Col 2 Del Vol; transferred Ex Order May 7 '77 to Philadelphia; rate \$30/mo commencing May 12 '64; stamped DEAD; certificate dated Sept 16 '64, sent to H.W. Draper Dover Del; Act July 14 1862; Book B Vol 1

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99	P-12 Reverse of docket jacket	Stamps: DROPPED Jan 21 1911, Auditor advised of Death; JAN 27 1911; FEB 4 1911 Act March 3 1895; cir to Isaac J. Windle atty.
100	P-13 Pension Office reference slip No. 53845	Act July 14 1862; Sarah M. Stricker wid of David L. Stricker Lt Col 2nd Del vols killed at Spotsylvania May 12 1864; referred to Adjutant General; Commissioner Joseph H. Barrett; received June 9 1864, atty Henry W. Draper Dover.
101	P-14 Wrapper/endorsement leaf	Near-blank; pencil 'Augt. 31-64-A.G.'
102	P-15 Notice of transfer of pension agency (Form 48)	U.S. Pension Agency Nov 15 1899; Sarah M. Stricker (wid David L.) Cert No. 30411 transferred to Philadelphia Pa rolls per Ex Order May 7 1877; Sidney L. Willson, Agent.
103	P-16 Letter, Windle Supply Company (Isaac J. Windle)	Philadelphia Jan 31 1911; executor of Sarah M. Stricker's estate; widow of Lt Col David L. Stricker, cert 386-30411 dated Sept 16 1864; died Jan 12 1911; last pension paid Nov 4 1910; asks about accrued pension.
104	P-17 Reverse of Windle letter	Pension Office & Finance Division stamps, FEB 1911.
105	P-18 Fold3 source information page	Stricker, David L; 2 Del Infantry, Co F and S; Application No. WC30411; pensioner Sarah M Smith Stricker, widow; RG 15.

Every Fact and Its Source

Each substantive fact in this report, with the document that states it. Tier 1 = sworn or own-hand documents; Tier 2 = official contemporaneous records; Tier 3 = claim-process paperwork; Tier 4 = administrative material. Notes mark facts a witness learned second-hand, values worked out by calculation, and uncertain readings.

Fact	Source document (page)	Tier	Notes
Soldier's name is David L. Stricker, Company A (later Field & Staff), 2nd Delaware Infantry.	C-1 Jacket cover / card index (p. 1)	4	—
His own signature spells the surname 'Stricker'.	C-31 Personal letter, Stricker to Maj Judd (p. 31)	1	corroborated by second source
A minority of army records spell the	C-86 Casualty Sheet (full form, First Div.)	2	source conflict

surname 'Stryker'/'Striker'.	(p. 86)		
Age 21 at muster-in June 1861, implying birth about 1839–1840.	C-2 Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	calculated/derived
Fold3 index gives estimated birth year 1839–1840, calculated from muster-in age.	C-87 Fold3 source information page (p. 87)	4	calculated/derived
Enrolled 21 May 1861 at Dover, Delaware, for three years.	C-2 Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	corroborated by second source
Mustered in as Captain 12 June 1861, roll dated Wilmington, Del.	C-2 Company Muster-in Roll (p. 2)	2	—
Absent sick at Cambridge, Md. in October 1861.	C-4 Company Muster Roll dated Oct 31 1861 (p. 4)	2	corroborated by second source
Present sick at Harrison's Landing in July 1862.	C-25 Returns card (p. 25)	2	—
Suffered remittent fever in autumn 1862 (certified unfit 20 days).	C-35 Surgeon's certificate (Plunkett) (p. 35)	2	—
Detailed to a General Court Martial by Special Order 113, 3 Oct 1862.	C-37 Special Order No. 113 (p. 37)	2	—
Discharged as Captain and promoted/enrolled Lieutenant Colonel effective 13 Nov 1862, at Warrenton Va, vice Baily promoted.	C-13 Individual Muster-in Roll (p. 13)	2	corroborated by second source
Discharged from service as Captain to accept commission as Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Del. Vols.	C-26 Individual Muster-out Roll (p. 26)	2	—
Company muster-out roll erroneously dates his promotion to Lt Col as Nov 23 1863.	C-28 Company Muster-out Roll (p. 28)	2	source conflict
Suffered chronic	C-43 Surgeon's	2	—

diarrhoea in Nov 1862 (certified unfit 30 days, change of climate advised).	certificate (Houston) (p. 43)		
Wounded (recorded 'slight') at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., on 2 July 1863.	C-58 Casualty Sheet (full form) (p. 58)	2	corroborated by second source
Certified unfit for duty 20 days from his Gettysburg wounds, 5 July 1863, at Baltimore.	C-52 Surgeon's certificate, 8th Army Corps (p. 52)	2	—
Reported returned for duty about 6 August 1863 after being absent wounded.	C-60 Letter, Brooke to Maj John Hancock (p. 60)	3	—
Repeatedly detailed as Field Officer / Corps Officer of the Day, autumn 1863–Jan 1864.	C-62 Special Orders No. 884 (p. 62)	2	corroborated by second source
Detached on recruiting service in Delaware, Jan–Feb 1864.	C-22 Field & Staff Muster Roll Jany & Feby 1864 (p. 22)	2	corroborated by second source
Paid \$342.10 as Lt Col for the period May 1–June 30 1863.	C-55 Pay voucher (p. 55)	2	—
Killed in action 12 May 1864 at Spotsylvania, Va., while commanding the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteers.	C-24 Field & Staff Muster Roll Feby 29–June 30 1864 (p. 24)	2	corroborated by second source
AGO letter states he was killed while commanding the 55th (not 53rd) Pa Vols at Spotsylvania May 12 1864.	P-5 Adjutant General's Office letter (p. 92)	2	source conflict
Casualty sheet confirms killed in action May 12 1864, place not stated, per Army Register.	C-84 Casualty Sheet (full form) (p. 84)	2	corroborated by second source
David L. Stricker married Sarah M. Smith on 3 March 1864 at St. Paul's M.E. Church,	P-6 Certified copy of marriage record (p. 93)	1	corroborated by second source

Philadelphia, Rev. Samuel W. Thomas officiating.			
Widow swore she married David L. Stricker on or about 3 March 1864 at Philadelphia; her maiden name was Sarah M. Smith.	P-3 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 90)	1	—
The soldier left no children at the time of his death.	P-3 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 90)	1	corroborated by second source
Widow Sarah M. Stricker (née Smith) was aged 25 in June 1864, residing at Dover, Kent County, Delaware.	P-3 Widow's Declaration for Pension (p. 90)	1	—
Sarah M. Stricker died 12 January 1911, having last been paid pension to 4 November 1910.	P-9 Pensioner Dropped notice (p. 96)	2	corroborated by second source
Sarah M. Stricker's estate was administered by executor Isaac J. Windle of Philadelphia.	P-16 Letter, Windle Supply Company (p. 103)	3	—
Widow's pension claim filed under the Act of July 14, 1862; application No. 53845.	P-13 Pension Office reference slip (p. 100)	3	—
Claim admitted 13 Sept 1864 at \$30 per month, commencing May 12 1864 (the officer's rate for a Lieutenant Colonel).	P-2 Brief in the case (p. 89)	2	corroborated by second source
Certificate No. 30,411 dated 16 Sept 1864, sent to attorney H.W. Draper, Dover, Del.	P-11 Certificate/docket jacket (p. 98)	2	—
Pension was transferred to the Philadelphia agency pursuant to the	P-15 Notice of transfer of pension agency (p. 102)	2	corroborated by second source

Executive Order of May 7, 1877.			
AGO confirmed enrollment 13 Nov 1862 at Warrenton Va and muster as Lt Col from 13 Nov 1862 at Falmouth Va.	P-5 Adjutant General's Office letter (p. 92)	2	—
The soldier's father died about 30 November 1863; his wife telegraphed him at the front to come immediately.	C-64 Telegram, American Telegraph Co. (p. 64)	2	corroborated by second source
The soldier requested 15 days' leave on 4 Dec 1863 having learned by telegram that his father was dead.	C-72 Personal letter, Stricker to Chas P. Hatch (p. 72)	1	—
Col. William P. Baily commanded the 2nd Delaware and preceded Stricker in the field rank.	C-39 Regimental Order No. 6 (p. 39)	2	corroborated by second source
Witnesses to the widow's declaration were Albert Cowgill and James Dunning of Dover, sworn before Prothonotary William Sharp.	P-4 Continuation & witness clause of declaration (p. 91)	1	—
Henry W. Draper of Dover, Kent County, Delaware, acted as the widow's pension attorney.	P-13 Pension Office reference slip (p. 100)	3	corroborated by second source

Hard-to-Read Entries

These are original handwritten records, in places faded or damaged with age. Where a word could not be read with confidence, it is flagged here rather than guessed at - nothing in this report is invented. A researcher reviewed each entry below against the original scans; some were made out on a closer look, and the rest remain genuinely unclear.

- Page 17** - flagged as hard to read (CMSR Special Muster Roll (CMSR original p.17, global 17); the place name and detail in the remarks are written faintly and cannot be read with confidence). A researcher re-checked it against the original scan; it remains genuinely unclear, which we note honestly.

- **Page 77** - flagged as hard to read (CMSR surgeon's certificate (CMSR original p.77, global 77) is written in a hurried, faded hand; the surgeon's name and some wording are only tentatively legible). A researcher re-checked it against the original scan; it remains genuinely unclear, which we note honestly.
- **Page 30** - flagged as hard to read (CMSR wrapper (CMSR original p.30, global 30) reads 'near Middletown' while the enclosed letter (CMSR p.31) reads 'near Drummondtown Va'; the place name is written unclearly on both). A researcher re-checked it against the original scan; it remains genuinely unclear, which we note honestly.

Where the Documents Disagree

Here two or more perfectly legible documents say different things. That is a finding about the record, not a reading problem - both versions are shown, and neither was silently preferred. Where the evidence clearly favored one reading, the story above follows it, and the note here says why - a visible weighing, never a silent one.

- **Page 1** - the documents disagree here (CMSR jacket index (Pension p.n/a; CMSR original page 1) indexes surname as 'Stricker, David S.'; multiple army documents spell 'Stryker' (CMSR pp.52, 86) and 'Striker' (CMSR pp.67,68,74). Soldier's own signature spells 'Stricker'). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adopt 'Stricker' — the soldier's own autograph letters (CMSR pp.31,33,41,46,53,72) are Tier 1 and control over clerks' variants.
- **Page 92** - the documents disagree here (Pension AGO letter (Pension original p.5, global 92) says he was killed commanding '55 Pa Vols'; the CMSR F&S roll (CMSR p.24, global 24) and pension brief (Pension p.2, global 89) say '53 Pa Vols'. The death fact, date and place agree). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. The evidence is evenly balanced; we do not choose between them.
- **Page 28** - the documents disagree here (CMSR Company Muster-out Roll (CMSR original p.28, global 28) remarks 'Promoted to Lieut Col Nov 23 1863', contradicting the individual muster-in roll and every other record (CMSR pp.12,13,15,39; Pension p.5) which give 13 Nov 1862). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adopt 13 Nov 1862 — the individual muster-in roll (Tier 2, event-specific) and the AGO letter corroborate it; the Nov 23 1863 entry is an isolated copyist error.
- **Page 49** - the documents disagree here (CMSR docket (CMSR original p.49, global 49) corrects the printed Special Order 428 (CMSR p.50) which names 'Lt. D.L. Stricker': 'Should be Lt Col D L Stricker not Lt as on'). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adopt Lieutenant Colonel — the file's own contemporaneous correction and all surrounding records confirm the higher rank; the order misprinted it.
- **Page 103** - the documents disagree here (Pension Windle letter (Pension original p.16, global 103) cites the certificate as '386-30411'; formal records (Pension pp.2,9,11,15) give 30,411). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Adjudicate to the formal certificate number 30,411; '386' is an agency/book prefix, not a distinct number.
- **Page 90** - the documents disagree here (Pension declaration (Pension original p.3, global 90) gives the widow's age as 25 in June 1864 (implied birth ~1838–1839); this is the claimant, distinct from the soldier's age of 21 at 1861 muster-in (CMSR p.2). Recorded to confirm the ages belong to different persons and show no drift within the soldier's own record). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: No conflict in the soldier's age; the age of 25 is the widow Sarah's, not David's — noted to prevent conflation.

- **Page 58** - the documents disagree here (CMSR casualty sheet (CMSR original p.58, global 58) records the wound as 'slight', while the surgeon's certificate (CMSR p.52) certified him unfit for 20 days). Both readings appear in the report; review confirmed the disagreement is in the record itself. Our read: Not a true contradiction; 'slight' is the battle-loss list's classification while the 20-day leave reflects his own recovery — both retained.

About this report: it was produced from the file provided, read page by page. It does not search records beyond that file - the Research Gaps section points to the outside records that could carry the story further.