

Robert A. Pinn
Ohio Civil War Medal of Honor
March 1, 1843 – January 5, 1911
Age 67

Robert A. Pinn, was born March 1, 1843 was born on a Perry Township farm in Stark County, Ohio and the sixth of 10 children born to William and Zilphia Pinn. He attended school and worked on the farm until he was 18. He served as First Sergeant in the 5th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment and was a recipient of America's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm. He was one of only four African Americans from Ohio to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. – January 5, 1911.

Pinn joined the Army in Massillon, Ohio, and by September 29, 1864, he was serving as a First Sergeant_in Company I, 5th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment, also known as the 127th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On that day, his unit participated in the Battle of Chaffin's Farm in Virginia, and it was for his actions during the battle that he was awarded the Medal of Honor six months later, on April 6, 1865.

Pinn returned to Massillon after the war where he worked as a contractor and teamster. In 1874 he entered Oberlin College and after graduation served as principal of Cairo High School and taught school in South Carolina. After teaching, Pinn returned to Massillon and read in the law office of Robert H. Folger. Pinn was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1879.

Pinn was married to Emily J. Manzilla, (deceased 1890) and they had a daughter Gracie R. Pinn (deceased 1938). Pinn died January 5, 1911, at age 67 and is buried in Massillon City Cemetery, Massillon, Ohio.

In 1973, the Ohio National Guard named its new armory in Stow, Ohio, in his honor. In 1998, the shooting facility at the University of Akron was renamed the Robert A. Pinn Shooting Range in his honor. The range, used by the university's ROTC component and NCAA rifle team, is one of the premier shooting facilities in the state of Ohio.



Medal of Honor Citation

Rank and Organization:

First Sergeant, Company I, 5th U.S. Colored Troops. Place and date: At Chapins Farm, Va., September 29, 1864. Entered service at: Massillon, Ohio. Born: March 1, 1843, Stark County, Ohio. Date of issue: April 6, 1865.

Citation:

Took command of his company after all the officers had been killed or wounded and gallantly led it in battle.

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