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1957

RECORD

OF

Stephen W. Sherman

LATE

Quintanilla

Chicago Board of

Trade Relations,

Illinois Southern

Army of the Cumberland

1862

Stock

Dec. 19

1907

Stevens, Sylvanus Hanson, 1827-1902.

COMRADE Sylvanus N. Stevens

Born 26 day of October 1827 in Livermore Mass came to Quincy Ill 1833

State of Illinois 1843 ^{admitted to Post No 28 22 day of May} ~~Illinois~~ Illinois

G. A. R., of Chicago February 23rd 1897 Enlisted July 21st 1862 as

Private in Co. Chicago Board of Trade Battery Illinois Regiment Vol. for the period Chicago B of T Battery

of Three years, and was discharged therefrom as Jun 1st Lieut. Ills. Vol. - by reason of

the close of the war at Chicago Ills

30th June 1865 ~~Enlisted~~ 18 ~~as~~

~~in Co. Regiment Vol for the period~~

~~of year, and was discharged therefrom as by reason of~~

~~at 18 Was taken prisoner~~

~~at the battle of 18 and imprisoned at~~

~~until 18 Was wounded at the battle of~~

Farmington 7th day October 1863 and cared for in the Hospital at

~~Rejoined the Regiment 18 Served in the Division Army~~

Corps, and took part in the following battles and campaigns: The battery reported at Camp

Douglas Chicago Aug 2nd 1862, Boke camp September

9th and reported to Gen G. B. Gilbert Commander of the post

of Louisville Ky on the 10th. In the reorganization of the

Army of the Ohio, by Maj Gen Don Carlos Buell commanding

prior to the Perryville Campaign the battery was

assigned to Gen Dumonts unassigned Div. It moved

on October 1st 1862 on the extreme left via Frankfort Ky.

October 11th moved from Frankfort with Gen R. S. Granger

brigade to report to Maj Gen A. M. S. McCook at Crab Orchard

Ky; enroute encountered Gen N. B. Forrests Command at

Lawrenceburg and put it to flight. Our first engagement.

After reporting at Crab Orchard the Army took up the

line of march to Bowling Green Ky

On 12th Maj Gen Don Carlos Buell was relieved, by Maj

RE
The battery was made horse Artillery and attached to the
Second Division of Cavalry. John B. Surchin commanding
who was relieved by Genl George Crook before the
Chickamauga campaign was inaugurated. There
was no other change in the assignment of the battery
during the war. All of which will appear more
fully in my register and Military History.

Respectfully submitted

B. H. Stevens

Jun 1st Lieut of late Chicago Board of Trade
Battery Illinois Volunteers,

at their ^{former} residence
On the left bank of the Androscoggin river
one mile below Livermore Falls in the town
of Livermore in the (then) county of Oxford
in the state of Maine U.S.A.

I enlisted in the military service of
the United States, in the war for the Union,
as a private in the Chicago Board of Trade
Battery of Light Artillery, Illinois Volunteers,
at Chicago July 21st A.D. 1862.

I was sworn into the United States
Military service at the place of enlistment,
with the full muster roll of said battery, by
Captain J. Christopher of the U.S. Army

1883

Chicago Ills
February 16th 1900

Military Register
Of Sylvanus Harlow Stevens

I Sylvanus Harlow Stevens the first child of Sylvanus B^{ay} Rebecca P Stevens, was born on the 26th day of October A.D. 1827. ^{at their homestead} On the left bank of the Androscoggin river one mile below Livermore Falls in the town of Livermore in the (then) county of Oxford in the state of Maine U.S.A.

I enlisted in the military service of the United States, in the war for the Union, as a private in the Chicago Board of Trade Battery of Light Artillery, Illinois Volunteers, at Chicago July 21st A.D. 1862.

I was sworn into the United States Military service at the place of enlistment, with the full muster roll of said battery, by Captain J Christopher of the U.S. Army

of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery of Light Artillery Illinois Volunteers, by Richard Yates the then Governor of the State of Illinois on the 2nd day of December A.D. 1862 to take rank from the 18th day of November 1862.

I was mustered out as first sergeant and mustered in as junior First Lieutenant of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery of Light Artillery of Illinois Volunteers at Nashville Tenn December eight 1862.

I was detailed on the 26th day of January 1864 by Maj Genl George N Thomas, commanding the Department of the Cumberland, as Acting Assistant Quarter-master and ordered to report for duty to Colonel James L Donaldson Senior and supervising Quarter-master of the Department of the Cumberland with Head Quarters at the Military Depot of Nashville Tenn.

I reported at once and relieved Captain A.M. J.W. Stubbs of the Department of Forage. Being soon relieved of that department, I under

On the 10th day of October 1864 to take rank from September 24th 1864 I was appointed by the War Department at Washington Colonel of the Sixth Regiment of Quarters-masters Forces at Nashville Tenn and ordered to report to Colonel Thomas J. Cox commanding Third Brigade of the First Division, General James L. Donaldson commanding.

I placed and held my regiment in line of battle at Nashville December 15th & 16th 1864.

On the 23rd of June 1865 I was relieved from duty as Acting Assistant Quarter master by Maj Genl George H Thomas and ordered to report to my command for muster out of service, by reason of the close of the war.

On the 30th day of June 1865, at Chicago Illinois. I was honorably mustered out of the Military service of the United States by Captain George W. Hill of the 13th U.S. Infantry.

D. H. Stevens

The Beginning of the Military History of S. H. Stevens

In the service of the United States in the war
for the Union from July 16th 1862 to June 30th 1863

It opens at the darkest hour of the Nations effort to
put down the rebellion.

The Army of the Potomac which had fought seven days
before Richmond was lying exhausted within an entrench-
-ed camp on the James. The Army which had won
Shiloh had only secured that "Apple of Athens"
Corinth and was lying on the Tennessee
without a plan of campaign. It was fore-
-shadowed that both Armies would be forced
back to their first lines of defense on the banks
of the Potomac and the Ohio

President Lincoln was sadly, wearily,
waiting a response from the loyal States to his
call of July 6th 1862 for three hundred thousand
more Volunteer recruits. At this juncture, on
the 16th day of July 1862, I S. H. Stevens decided that it
was my duty to serve my country in the Army.

Chicago Ill
July 16th 1862

C. J. Wheeler

President of the Board of Trade

We the undersigned members request you to call on an early day a general meeting of the Board to pledge ourselves to use our influence and money to recruit a battery to be known as the Chicago Board of Trade Battery.

George Steel E. G. Wolcott W. C. Stearns

William Sturges J. J. Munro J. J. Bronson

E. Fisker G. L. Scott C. H. Walker

John Thompson

The President issued the call for the members to meet in the exchange room at the corner of Wells^{4th} & South Water Streets on the evening of July 21st 1862.

The meeting was called to order by the ^{President} Vice President John L. Hancock who was in full sympathy touch. The following resolution was introduced by Charles H. Walker

Resolved: That this Board of Trade will recruit a company of mounted Artillery to be called the Chicago

A muster roll was then brought forward bearing the name of S. H. Stevens. The names of S. H. Stevens, J. W. Bloom, H. B. Chaudler, A. F. Baxter, H. J. Baxter and J. A. Howard were added during the evening. A cash subscription list went round and \$5,211 was pledged. Prior to adjournment the subscription list was placed in the hands of the zealous N. K. Fairbanks under whose care it was increased to \$5,000. The muster roll was intrusted to S. H. Stevens who reported to Vice President Hancock at 4 PM on the 23rd that the enlistment of the company of artillery was completed. I urged the Vice President to authorize the opening of rolls for the enlistment of a regiment of infantry. He thought it not proper for him to pledge the board to that extent, but would sanction a company. At the evening meeting of the board on the 23rd there was a new muster roll which bore the legend "Hancock Guards" First Board of Trade Regiment; when it was mustered into the U.S. Service it became Co. "A" of the seventy second regiment of Illinois Volunteers.

President of the United States
The Board of Trade of this city have within the
last forty eight hours raised fifteen thousand dollars
county money and have recruited a full
company of Artillery. We expect to raise a
regiment of Infantry.

J. L. Hancock George Amour H. W. Nimsdale
William Sturgis C. H. Walker S. H. Stevens.

Without aid or suggestion
I conceived the line of policy which
gave my country the benefits set forth.
But all would have been naught had not
the board of trade memberships had the will
and power to execute.

The immediate tangible result of this
opportune movement was that within ten,
thirty, forty, and seventy days from its initial,
the Chicago Board of Trade Battery and three
Chicago Board of Trade Regiments of Illinois
Volunteers, viz the seventy second eighty eighth and
one hundred and thirteenth respectively were mustered
into the military service of the United States for

State and Nation felt that there was a sustaining inherent within the people.

In the state of Illinois alone within sixty days, from the date of the first war meeting of the Board, fifty thousand men whose minds grasped the situation and whose moral sense urged them to support the government, left their desks, benches, plows and ungathered crops to offer their lives that the Nation might live.

Notwithstanding the rapidity with which new troops were organized; before they could reach the front the Army of the Ohio was back to the Ohio river and the Army of the Potomac back to the Potomac river and the loyal states threatened with invasion.

S. H. Stevens
Jun 1st Lt of Late Co B of 2nd Battery Ills Vol
and A. A. L. M. and Col of the 6th reg
3rd Brig 1st Div of 2nd M Forces.

Col. Ill

the cause, not courage makes the hero.

An episode in the military life of S. H. Stearns
{ then and now a member of the Board of Trade
of the city of Chicago. } While in the service of the
United States in the war for the Union.

The Chicago Board of Trade Battery
Ills Vol. in camp on the Franklin turnpike
two ^{and one} half miles south of Nashville Tenn.
Sunday December 14th 1862.

An order came to me to take charge of a
battery forage detail and report at headquarters
at "Overstons" five miles south of Nashville to
the officer in charge of a second division forage
train ordered south, outside the lines by Brig
Genl. James B. Negley commanding.

My detail consisted of Quartermaster Sergeant
Calvin Durand, Corporal Chas. Tinsley, Cannoneers
John J. Carroll Chas. N. Williams, Homer T. Baker
J. N. Buckingham John B. Bluman ^{and} Frank P. Richmond
Each bearing, by order, a musket drawn at
Burling Green. Teamster J. A. Rutledge and
two others in charge of three four horse wagons.

I reached Div Headquarters in the least

(2)

of Col Joseph P. Scott, had been gone long enough to have reached its destination seven miles south. But as I could well and safely fill my wagons within half that distance it would be best to go forward and return with the division train.

To the right when two and one half miles out, there was seen a gateway into a wide avenue leading west down a gentle slope some half a mile, from thence a sharp ascent to a prosperous looking farmhouse with a back ground of abrupt wooded hills.

The detail passed down the avenue to a plantation road which branched through a gate on the south, at the foot of the slope, and then turned west through another across an open pasture, past the farmhouse high up on the right, through the fourth gate from the turn pile. The road continued through a "cow" pasture to a gap in the surrounding hills.

Inside of the secluded pasture at a short distance to the right of the entrance

(3)

wagons, I took the part of a "Vedette" and passed around on the verge of the open pasture beneath the wooded hills until I came to where the plantation road entered the gap. A glance was sufficient. It was an ideal point of debouch for the enemy. I remained on duty there until I thought sufficient time had passed for the loading to be completed. When I returned the Sergeant was on the bluff receiving to the plauter for the forage. I dismounted and climbed the height which brought into view the Franklin turnpike with the returning division forage train and escort. As I turned to the Sergeant and plauter a flight of lead cut the air and the report of musketry came from the mouth of the defile I had just vacated. The firing continued with more deliberation. Thinking to fall back on the escort in view on the pike, which would rally to our relief, as they must have been notified of a conflict by the firing, I directed the Sergeant to put his wagons in the advance.

(14)

cannoneers in front I came in sight of the turnpike again. The column had passed on North and no aid could be expected and it was too late to make any change in orders.

After passing and closing the first gate, I missed from my retreating squad Johnny Carroll turning I found him facing to the rear with his musket resting on the gate. I called to him to fall back, but he was deaf to the call, I rode back near him and called out "Johnny fall back or you will be captured sure." Without a motion, the word came back "Lieutenant let me give them just one shot" I waited while sixteen mounted Confederates came charging like mad across the pasture. When Johnny thought they had arrived within range his old musket blazed, I saw the shot raise the dust in the middle distance. He then turned to the rear in my front, but he persisted in turning out of the road to the left that he might hit the avenue. Since between him and the

(5)

time, so spurred my horse to his best. As I passed the second gate and turned north my caannoneers had just passed the third gate into the Avenue, but they had turned to the left in place of keeping the road to the right. The for seeing this abandoned the direct chase and charge left oblique across the pasture into a fence corner a veritable cul de sac, on the left flank of the men. These two movements gave to me a safe open road to camp. But I turned to the left following the lead of my squad.

Simultaneous with my arrival at their immediate rear came the rebel demand for their surrender. I called out "Give them Hell Boys" { This rallying cry may seem harsh but many officers who had been promoted from the pulpit involuntarily used it in the heat of battle. } It came a moment late, on the instant their hands went up and their muskets dropped to the ground. I rode around them and

(6)

raised I was seen, to still be in the saddle with a smoking revolver, A shout came as with one voice "Surrender" I pressed my horse closer to the fence and drew a bead on the nearest man. The return fire was half hearted. They were either awed by the supposed presence of a charmed life or scrupled to kill a soldier so hopelessly within their power. At this juncture five of the command broke to the rear and raced back to the plantation road, round through the two gates and turned to the left on my rear with muskets clubbed called "Surrender". I wheeled, dodged the muskets and forced a passage by dashing my horse against theirs and started up the avenue with the fire at my heels. When they came uncomfortably near I turned and I charged back on them. At the pike an abandoned wagon with four horses attached had a wheel against the post and the gateway was closed. One of my pursuers with revolver

(7)

The other side of the fence was mortally wounded just back of the fire shoulder. Being out of work and cartridges and being uncovered by the unhorsing of my forman I was within range of three of my pursuers who had halted some fifty yards back with their muskets in rest waiting their opportunity. I dropped my right foot from the stirrup to a rail of the fence and took the other side. I went to the front of the team and looked up the road.

Some half mile away the division escort was in line of battle across the road and faced to the rear with shotted artillery on the center, supported by infantry on the flanks ready to resist the enemy which they had reason to suppose from the rear and incessant firing would soon reach them.

I turned to the off side of the team and found Sergeant Durand engaged in a duel with the fifth trooper who was on the inside of the rail fence dismounted and using his horse as a breast work. I gave

(8)

on the metal of the turnpike road as he sped north for aid. I fell back up and across the pike which gave the three Confederates their chance. Their bullets whistled to the right to the left and above me and yet I was spared. Soon the escort was seen coming back on the double quick. The Confederates hustled away to the hills with their plunder and six prisoners and peace was again in the Valley.

An Interview

As you could have escaped when your men surrendered, why did you enter the lists against such fearful odds?

To avoid being pointed out in after years as the officer who deserted his men under fire. When the demand to "surrender" came: a solemn vow that I had made to never accept a rebel prison to save my life, stood me in good stead.

Life every man holds dear; but the

(9)

Officer, if not already out of the fight, being mounted, would leave them to their fate.

What became of Johnny Carrol?

He was relieved of the burden of carrying that prize of bravery symbolized by that rebel lead when his comrades laid him at rest at Forrest Home one year ago.

What prompts you to give this episode now?

The fact that the actors in the scene will soon pass off the stage and the story is too improbable to be believed without their evidence.

D. H. Stevens
JUN 1st 1864 late Co B 1st Heavy Arty U.S. Vol.
A. A. 2nd Reg of the 6th reg
3rd Brig 1st Div of 2nd Corps.

Chicago Ills
May 26th 1900..