

CO. G, 2ND ILL. LT INF
NASHVILLE

DEEDS OF VALOR

FROM RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HOW AMERICAN HEROES WON THE
MEDAL OF HONOR

HISTORY OF OUR RECENT WARS AND EXPLORATIONS

FROM PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND RECORDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED
MEN WHO WERE REWARDED BY CONGRESS FOR MOST CONSPICUOUS
ACTS OF BRAVERY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, ON THE HIGH
SEAS AND IN ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS THE STIRRING ADVENTURES OF:

Admiral W. S. SCHLEY	Admiral GEO. W. MELVILLE	Hon. WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)
Admiral GEO. DEWEY	Lieut. G. W. DeLONG	Gen'l MARION P. MAUS
Lieut-Gen'l NELSON A. MILES	General A. W. GREELY	Gen'l ARTHUR McARTHUR, Jr.
Maj.-Gen'l WM. R. SHAFER	Commander W. D. CUSHING	Gen'l DELEVAN BATES
Admiral D. G. FARRAGUT	Hon. L. P. di CESNOLA	Gen'l JULIUS STAHL
Admiral D. D. PORTER	Gen'l F. J. BELL	Hon. JOHN C. BLACK

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INTRODUCTION BY

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Illustrated

COMPLETE IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

THE PERRIEN-KEYDEL COMPANY

DETROIT, MICH., U. S. A.

1907



SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL,
Corporal, Co. G, Second Illinois
L. A.
Born in Rutland County, Vermont,
Nov. 1, 1842.

WHERE OTHERS SKULKED, HE STOOD HIS GROUND

“HE stood manfully at his post.” This splendid tribute is quoted from the records relating to the award of the Medal of Honor to Corporal Samuel J. Churchill, of Company G, Second Illinois Light Artillery.

He won it December 15, 1864, when General Thomas made an attack upon the rebel army under General Hood, near Nashville, Tenn.

The battery to which Churchill belonged was in position on high ground, 200 yards from and directly in front of the rebel battery. Churchill himself commanded a twelve-pound Napoleon gun served by eight men. The Confederates worked their pieces with deadly accuracy, several men and horses being killed before Churchill's Battery succeeded in taking the desired position—a few feet to the right of a large brick house.

The firing continued and seemed to increase both in frequency and certainty of aim. But now the Union Batteries opened and replied as effectively as that of the enemy.

At Churchill's gun a cannoneer at the command of “Load!” took the sponge-staff, sponged the gun and waited for his comrade to come up with the cartridge. Just then a volley from the rebel battery enshrouded the gun and the waiting cannoneer became panic-stricken. He dropped his sponge-staff and ran behind the brick house. His terror spread to the other cannoneers and they likewise fled, leaving the corporal alone at his post. Neither entreaty nor command could induce the men to return. But Churchill never wavered. Regardless of the rain of shot and snell he stuck to his place and assumed the duties and functions of his skulking command. He loaded and fired his gun eleven times without any assistance whatever, thereby helping to silence the Confederate Battery and contributing his share to the glorious achievements of the Union Army of that day.

