

Plain Times Herald



Hero Of Wilson's Creek

UNION GENERAL Nathaniel Lyon, a red-headed little Connecticut Yankee, led an army of some 5,000 men 10 miles south of Springfield, Mo., on Aug. 9, 1861, to defend the city and the south-

western front from Confederate forces moving up from Arkansas under Confederate Gen. Ben McCulloch.

That night, General Lyon was quoted as saying that he was meeting the enemy, even though he was pessimistic about the outcome, to prove the Union's courage before withdrawing from the area because its defense was untenable for the North.

This example of stubborn pride was indicative of the West Point graduate. He had been active in forming the Union party in Missouri before the war and mustering a fighting contingent when the nation was torn asunder. He refused to accede to secessionist proposals that the state remain neutral. Instead, he tried to clean up the roving Confederate bands around the state.

And so it was about dawn on Aug. 10, 1861, that General Lyon engaged an enemy force that outnumbered his own by more than two to one at Wilson's Creek. By the time the fighting was over that afternoon, the Confederates had won the first major engagement on the Western front in one of the bloodiest minor battles of the Civil War.

The Confederates temporarily gained control of Springfield, and, on the battlefield, General Lyon, 43, was counted among the dead. Confederate and Union forces continued to wrangle for control of Springfield until the spring of 1862 when the Union got the upper hand and maintained its grip on the city for the remainder of the war.

Illness Stalked Soldiers

(Soldiers in the Civil War seemed as frequently the victims of illness as of wounds. This story of a veteran of at least eight battles illustrates the point. While the account lists no injuries for Moses Bowen, Mansfield farmer turned Union soldier, he spent almost a year of his service suffering from typhoid fever.)

MOSES BOWEN

Moses Bowen, son of Mosca and Betsey Meacham Bowen, was born Dec. 11, 1843 in Mansfield. He was engaged in farming at the time he enlisted as a private in Co. B, 154th N.Y.V.I. 2d Brig., 2d Div., 10th and 20th A.C., Aug. 15, 1862.

Nov. 5, 1862 he was taken ill with typhoid fever and was confined in the hospital in the Baptist Church at Alexandria, Va., until Jan. 9, 1863; then was sent to Portsmouth Grove, R.I. for three weeks; returned, but suffered a severe relapse and was in Lincoln Hospital, Washington, D.C. until Sept. 1863 when he joined his regiment at Bridgeport, Ala.

He was in action at Wauhatchie, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mt., Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Pumpkin Vine Creek, All Burnt Hickory and New Hope Church. He was sent from Chattanooga to New Albany Ind. to Joe Holt Barracks on account of illness, and at the close of the War was discharged from Louisville, June 27, 1865.

He returned to the home farm, where he spent the remainder of his active life.

He married Adiline Harvey, Dec. 29, 1868. They had two daughters, Mary E. and Maude E.

He died at the home of his daughter, Mary Widrig in Orlando, Fla., in 1920.

the battles in which he fought side by side with men aged three times his age when he was but a boy of 16.

he had fought... Olean where he... been commander of the local for the past year.

Jim answered Lincoln's call to arms in December 1863, and went to war as a private in Company C, 61st New York Volunteers. First Division Army Corps under General Hancock. The names came easily now as Commander Shipman looks back across the 67 years that have elapsed since he first slung an army musket over his shoulder.

Mr. Shipman's company moved first to the Rapidan River in the Spring of 1864. From there he engaged in the battles of Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. He remembers well when the company moved along the Weldon R.R. and over to Hatches Run where the skirmishes were frequent, during October and December in 1864.

At his home in Ischua, where he spends his time caring for a little garden in the rear of his home, Mr. Shipman told how he had started out with a detail to do guard duty in Washington one night in September of 1864 had fallen asleep on the boat while going down the river and woke up at 4 a.m. to hear the cannons booming. Upon investigation he discovered that they were at Deep Bottom and that war was on in all its mighty power. "That was as close as I ever got to Washington," said the G.A.R. Commander. "We fooled around Deep Bottom for quite a while.

"The wind up came in the Spring of 1865. We broke camp in March and started out to clean up after having been quartered in and around Petersburg all Winter. We could see the enemy's lines at Petersburg and we were on picket lines continuously. At least twelve

Book To C

This lady is apparently very ill but I'll try & see her

"BEA" ELDRIDGE, Town of Portville, historian, has expressed interest in the story of the Portville Civil War hero, Amos Hummiston, and his three children (Times Herald, May 29, 1960).

"Bea" relates that about \$5,000 was raised in Portville from the sale of the pictures, the fund being used to benefit the widow and children of Sgt. Hummiston.

The Portville historian has complete original clippings from Olean and Gettysburg papers published when the story unfolded, which she would be glad to share with interested persons.

The state championship... College Park, Md. The same team... last year's title... kind emerging

Soldier G.A.R. Was Italian

Real 'Civil War