



CAMP "JOHN MANLEY," 154<sup>TH</sup> REG'T N. Y. VOL.,  
1st Brigade, 2d Division, 11th Corps, Army Potomac.

Near Stafford C. H., Va.,

1863.

**THE CIVIL WAR SERVICE OF EDGAR SHANNON,  
154th NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY**

Basic record: Age 21 years. Enrolled August 1, 1862 at Leon, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. B, September 24, 1862; wounded in action May 2, 1863 at Chancellorsville, Va.; promoted sergeant November 13, 1863; mustered in as first lieutenant and quartermaster, March 15, 1864; mustered out with regiment June 11, 1865 near Bladensburg, Md. Commissioned first lieutenant and quartermaster February 17, 1864, with rank from February 6, 1864, vice Timothy A. Allen resigned.

Mentions in letters, diaries and accounts of members of the 154th New York:

"September [1861]...I went to Randolph Academy with Edgar Shannon, Max Saunders, and DeHart Thompson, boarding ourselves over a store for the fall term only, after which I did chores at Beecham's and went to school to my best friend, Shannon." Marcellus W. Darling, postwar autobiographical account.

"I and Edgar and [Private William H.] Bill Casten went out the other day to see what we could see. We went over to the bank of the [Potomac] river and saw the boats pass and repass then we went most down to Alexandria....We came back where there were three Negroes making Cider we bought two pints for five cents a pint it tasted a little like old Cattaraugus cider but it was made [by] negros We tried to go in to some of the forts but they would not let us in." Marcellus W. Darling, Private, Co. K, letter to Dear Parents, October 11, 1862, Camp Seward, Arlington Heights, Virginia.

"Edgar & Bill Casten are here with the Reg't. now they came since we got here." Darling, letter of September 2, 1863, Alexandria, Va.

"I dont know as you have heard that Edgar Shannon is promoted to 1st Lieut. he is our Quarter Master. he will get now \$136. dollars a month now if he does not keep only one horse I am glad to see Edgar come up and the best thing is that he is put in over Dell Chaffee, who has been working his best and all of his friends at home also, to get him promoted. it appears that there is some think there was no one to come from Leon only Dell Chaffee and that he is the only one of importance from there. if he had never had any better chance than common Leon boys he would have been a Doehead in fact he does not lack much of it now." Darling, letter of March 13, 1864, Lookout Valley, Tenn.

"We are still remaining in the same Camp I wrote you from last there was a Sergeant [Shannon] from one of the Companys appointed over me and is now Qr Mr and the beauty of this thing, I have to do his work and learn him. and you know in the Army we have no right to say our soal is our own But the Colonel [Jones] called me to his Tent a few days agoe he promised me that he would make it all right within a Month by placing the Qr Mr in the line and placing me here. but I will not expect it for it is well known that I am from the wrong part of our County. But if eny such thing should happen I think I will follow in the same track you have taken and then *How Are You Idaho.*" Newton A. Chaffee, Quartermaster Sergeant, letter to Dear Friend Norman, April 6, 1864, Lookout Valley, Tenn.



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"I saw Edgar today he was feeling good and cheerful he has a good position and he is a good Boy." Darling, letter of June 7, 1864, near Dallas, Ga.

"Ordered to pack up and march but didnt do the latter Went down to the train and took dinner with Q M Shannon black beans Raining hard." Alfred W. Benson, Second Lieutenant, Co. D, diary entry, June 12, 1864.

"I am detailed as Commissary Serg't. of the Regiment (that is) to draw and issue the rations for the Regiment. we have got a commissary to our regiment but he is detailed at Corps Head Quarters and Edgar had a chance to recommend any one he choosed to for the place so he choose me....I mess with Edgar. he can buy any thing they have at the commissary so we can live very well." Darling, letter of September 11, 1864, Atlanta, Ga.

"Edgar, Dell [Chaffee] and myself stay together now and have (this day) moved into a nice house left by some rich Secesh when the Rebel army fell back from here. Edgar says it makes him think of going to School at Randolph and so it does me though we do not have to cook our own "grub" Edgar is entitled to a waiter and he cooks for us all....Edgar has got to go out side of our lines tomorrow with some rebel citazens." Darling, letter of September 19, 1864, Atlanta, Ga.

"Dell Chaffee has been detailed at the Corps Quarter Masters and Edgar and I have all of the business to do now. we have been issuing clothing and making out the papers & getting ready to move....Edgar and I can always get along if any body can....We live in a white house in Atlanta and have Sweet Potatoes to eat too." Darling, letter of November 4, 1864, Atlanta, Ga.

"Went on duty down town [Savannah] had a plesant day...went down to see Mr Ponce in the evening with Guy [George C. Waterman] and Shanon arrested a Quartermaster of the 17th A.C. for being drunken and noisy." Alexander Bird, First Lieutenant, Co. F, diary entry, January 3, 1865.

"Edgar has gone out and I am alone in our wall Tent (or cotton house) and everything is comfortable and warm with our little box stove and by the way I must tell you how we came by it. after we got into this city we found we needed a stove and out we put came to an old "Reb" hospital that was left in our possession ....here was a pile of stoves, and a guard also but as soldiers we layed a plan to get it, so Capt [James M.] Gallagher was to strike up a conversation with the guard while the Quartermaster and I were to clinch the stove and hurry up the street out of sight, the plan was laid and we advanced. Edgar and I flanked the guard and the Capt drew his attention by asking him what corps he belonged to and what Regiment; his back was turned and we seized the stove and off we went carrying it nearly half a mile to get and keep out of sight, the plan was a complete success and we gained a decided advantage." Darling, letter of January 21, 1865, Savannah, Ga.

"Went to the City [Washington] with Jim [Bird, Alex's brother] and Shannon got pretty wet before we got back." Alex Bird, diary entry, May 20, 1865.

"My tent mate [William H. Casten] escaped unhurt at Rocky face and passed through all the fights...was discharged came home and died within 10 days after I think. We were tent mates for a year or more and a finer comrade never lived. My other tent mate Shannon has been called, and of the three that lived together at Lookout Valley I am the only one living." Thomas R. Aldrich, Corporal, Co. B, undated postwar account.