

My 3-gr grandfather, James Boone was a farmer living in Somersetshire, England with his wife, Louisa, and their eight children. Times were difficult in England; food was sometimes in short supply, especially for a farmer trying to feed a large family. So in 1856, James decided the family's future was in America. In 1856, James and Louisa's family consisted of: John, age 14; Sarah, age 12; Henry, age 10; George, age 9; Anna, age 7; Edwin, age 4; William, age 3; and baby Emily, about 18 months.

James felt that his family would have a better life in the United States. In America, there was land, not only for James, but when his five sons came of age; they too would be able to find farmland. So in early November 1856, James packed up his family and their belongings and traveled to the port of Liverpool. There they boarded the sailing ship, "Underwriter" on their way to America.

The Atlantic storms during November and December were ferocious that year. Waves were high and the ship was constantly being tossed. Life on board the tiny sailing ship was very difficult, especially for a family of ten. The voyage which normally took 3 1/2 to 4 weeks took over 7 weeks. Food and supplies ran low. With so many people living jammed together, disease spread quickly. Baby Emily didn't survive the voyage and she was buried at sea. Finally on New Year's Day, January 1, 1857, the ship landed in New York City.

The family then traveled to western New York and settled in Yates County. James found a farm that he could rent, giving the landowner a share of the crops as rent. Farming life in New York was strange at first, different from England. The crops were different; especially what the Boones would call "Indian corn". The winters here were much colder and filled with snow. But the family learned the ways of his new land. They worked hard and prospered.

James' dream was still to own his own farm. The family scrimped and saved. In 1859, another daughter, Alice was born. In the spring of 1860, when James' oldest son, John (my great, great grandfather) turned age 18, John went to work on a neighboring farm as a hired hand.

In the years before the Civil War, America was getting ready to boil over on the issue of slavery. Most people felt that the presidential election in the fall of 1860 would be a major turning point for the United States. James actively followed the politics and the events taking place in his new country. James was strongly antislavery; Great Britain had abolished slavery in 1834. James became a Republican, and supported Abraham Lincoln in the election. The Boone family grew up loving this country and supporting the Union. So, when James' next son was born on Lincoln's Inauguration Day, March 4, 1861, there was no indecision, the sixth son just had to be named Lincoln Boone. James voted straight Republican the rest of his life.

On April 12, 1861, the South fired on Ft. Sumter; the Civil War had begun. James' family continued to prosper and farming was good. When the war started, James had 6 sons, but only the oldest son, John, was old enough to enlist. But an accident as a child resulted in John being nearly blind in his right eye, so he was turned down. However, in 1863, when the army was desperate for men, John volunteered again; this time he was accepted by the infantry. Even though the rest of the family appeared to be too young, James ended up with 2 sons in the Union army and 2 son-in-laws.

On the 4th of July 1861, 19 year old John married a young lady by the name of Almira. James' second oldest child, Sarah got married in early 1862 at the age of 17 to a dashing young Union cavalryman, Edward Easing, who was home on furlough from the Union Army. Shortly after the war ended, James' second daughter, 18 year old Anna, married an artilleryman, Spencer Welch. Anna's brother, George, enlisted in the 11th Michigan Infantry as soon as he reached the age of 17. However, the war ended less than 4 months later while George was still in training.

John was a strong young man who worked hard. He had a strong British accent, and spoke with a heavy West County dialect, which he never lost. Following the wedding in July 1861, John found a farm to rent in Yates County. John and Almira had a daughter in March 1862. With their family starting to grow and a strong desire to own their own land, John and Almira decided to move west, ending up in southern Michigan, at Hillsdale, where they had a son in April 1864.

In the summer of 1864 there was a terrible drought in Yates County, New York. Most of James Boone's crops failed. John had been writing the family, telling them about Michigan. John told them that not only was land available, but the land and climate were better than in New York. Southern Michigan seemed to be a great place to live. James decided it was time to go west. That fall, James visited his son and bought a farm.

James Boone and family arrived in Michigan in 1865 in time to put in the spring crops. The new farm was 106 acres of land partially cleared and improved; and was located in Hillsdale County. James was very successful in his farming and stock-raising, becoming a prominent citizen in the community. James and Louisa had three more children (for a total of thirteen), living on this farm the rest of their lives. At the time of his death, James had 10 living children, 42 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

During the Civil War, Michigan furnished almost 100,000 soldiers to the Union armed forces. About 3,000 Michigan men were killed in action, about 1,300 died of their wounds, and over 10,000 men died of disease. Even greater numbers of soldiers had major wounds that would affect them throughout life, such as the loss of limbs, vision or hearing, head injuries and mental impairments. Other thousands contracted chronic incurable illnesses, such as TB or malaria.

The farm boys of Michigan did not have the immunities of the men who had lived their lives in crowded urban areas. They were not accustomed to living in the crowded, unhygienic Civil War camps. Disease ran rampant through Michigan camps.

Most men enlisted for either 2 or 3 years. After their enlistment was up the soldier was free to leave. However, the war lasted longer than their enlistments. Most men had enlisted as a group. Therefore, their enlistments all ended at the same time. Even though the war was a horrific experience, most were volunteers and dedicated to the Union. They had come this far, and they wanted to make sure that the job got done. They wanted to be there at the finish. Therefore, many soldiers reenlisted. A soldier who reenlisted was called a "Veteran". A company where most men reenlisted was called a "Veteran" company.

A normal company could have anywhere from 40-100 troops, but generally far fewer than 100. In the Civil War, men enlisted to be a part of a specific company, with the company part of a specific regiment. So for example, 100 men from Benton Harbor would enlist as a group and become Company A of the First Michigan Infantry Regiment. When men got sick, captured, wounded or died, they frequently would not be replaced. The company would just get smaller and smaller, until eventually, it could no longer function as a company. Sometimes, after a major battle, there would be only a few men left; some companies literally had no one left. Several of these shattered companies would then combine to form a new company, and the old companies would no longer exist.

The Veteran Reserve Corps (originally called the "Invalid Corps") consisted of soldiers who had become gravely ill or injured and could no longer perform normal duties. They were still able to perform light duty. Many of these men had serious disabilities. Many had chronic diseases such as TB or malaria. Many had lost arms, legs, eyes, or had other severe war injuries.

Many members of the Veteran Reserve Corps were severely limited in what they could do. But, by handling duties to the best of their ability, they freed up able-bodied soldiers to serve on the front lines.

Most people, when they picture a Civil War battle, see two huge armies fighting on a southern battlefield. They certainly don't see the fighting taking place in Michigan. But many Confederate sympathizers lived in Canada, having moved there at the start of and prior to the war. In addition, Confederate agents could easily enter Canada, and were free to move about that country. Michigan, since it was on the Canadian border, was continually threatened with invasion and raids by rebels who were living in Canada.

The South was losing the war. About the only way to win was for the North to lose their "will" to continue. The South felt that a successful attack on Northern soil would help erode that will. Many Southern strategists believed that an attack on the Michigan border had a good chance of success.

Michigan had few troops available to defend its borders. In 1863 and 1864, there were only nine companies stationed in the Detroit metropolitan area. They were defending an international border from Port Huron to Toledo, and all the land in southeast Michigan from Port Huron to Jackson to Toledo.

Six of the nine companies defending the Detroit border were Federal troops of the Second Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps. This regiment was created by combining the survivors of ten companies which had been decimated in battle. These six companies were also members of the Veteran Reserve Corps, so they all had disabilities and would not be able to fight as well as an unimpaired soldier.

The other three companies were State troops (local militia); with little or no combat experience. The militia companies were the "Scott Guard", the "Detroit Light Guard", and the "Lyon Guard". As you can see the border defense was quite thin and vulnerable to Confederate attacks and acts of terrorism.

In addition to the 9 companies of soldiers, the State Armory at Detroit had 500 muskets, an abundance of ammunition, and enough gear for 500 soldiers, to be distributed to Detroit citizens in case of an attack on Detroit. There was also an arsenal at Dearborn, where there were 3,500 muskets and plenty of ammunition. While technically part of the border defense, because both arsenals were guarded by only a few guards, this made them excellent targets for Confederate raiders.

As a bit of trivia, the Detroit Light Guard was a very popular, well-known and respected military unit in Detroit, before, during and after the Civil War. They called themselves the "Tigers". In the 1880s, a professional baseball team was created in Detroit as part of the National Baseball League. They called themselves the Detroit Wolverines. In the 1890s, when the Wolverines decided to become part of the newly created American League, they decided to change their nickname to the Detroit Tigers, to profit from the Detroit Light Guard's popularity. After receiving formal permission from the Light Guard to use their trademark, the baseball team officially became the "Tigers".

Another interesting fact, the commander of the Scott Guard was Col. August Goebel, who after the war founded the Goebel Brewery. Goebel beer was a popular drink in Michigan from 1873 until 1964.

During 1863 and 1864, military and civil authorities received tips, and intelligence reports almost daily about planned raids. Rumored terrorism plots included raids on American border cities, burning and destroying villages, and the disruption of shipping on the Great Lakes

by capturing and sinking ships. These rumors kept the border area in a continual state of alarm. Many of these rumors were actually true. It was only by constant vigilance and quick action by law enforcement agents and the military that the plans failed. However, authorities were being constantly pressured by the public to do more to protect Southeast Michigan and insure the safety of their homes and businesses.

In November 1863, the U.S. government was notified by the British, that they had information about a plot to invade the United States by Confederate agents who were living in Canada, The Confederate plan was to cross the border into Michigan; hijack some steamboats on Lake Erie; sail the boats to Johnson's Island near Sandusky, which was a Union POW camp; free the rebel prisoners; and then using the freed soldiers to attack Buffalo, New York.

A few months after this report, the Michigan government sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State. This letter stated that "Unless you can suggest some better mode of raising a regiment for service on the [border], I recommend that the authority be given the Governor of Michigan to raise a Volunteer Regiment....This additional force is absolutely necessary, and should be organized before the Detroit River is frozen over....The Regiment can be raised at once and the arms, appointments and clothing are now on hand for it. No lesser force can render the frontier of Michigan secure."

The U.S. Secretary of War authorized Michigan to raise a State Regiment of 10 companies, approximately 1000 volunteers, for this home duty. Regimental headquarters was in Jackson. Recruiting officers traveled throughout southeast Michigan signing up officers and men. Volunteers enlisted for 12 months service to be engaged in frontier duty in Michigan along the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers until June, 1865. The 10 companies were stationed at different points along the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers, and throughout southeastern Michigan.

Almost a year later, on September 19, 1864, the plot to invade the U.S. that was discovered the previous November was put in motion by the Rebels. Four terrorists took passage on a passenger ship out of Detroit. Additional terrorists boarded the ship at other ports, until there were about 30 terrorists on the ship. The terrorists overpowered the captain and crew, and the other passengers, and hijacked the ship.

The terrorists sailed the ship across Lake Erie towards Sandusky, Ohio. Johnson Island, which was about 2 miles off the coast of Sandusky, was a prisoner of war camp where over 3,200 Confederate soldiers were held prisoner. The Rebels intended to free the prisoners, capture more ships and then start raiding Northern cities.

So far their plan was going well. They landed at another island, where they seized another ship, capturing the captain, crew and 300 unarmed U.S. soldiers who were passengers going home to be mustered out of the army because their enlistments were up. Half the terrorists took control of the second ship and both ships continued toward Sandusky. They got to within 14 miles of Johnson Island.

Johnson Island was guarded by the USS Michigan an ironclad warship. Part of the plan was for a prominent Sandusky man (who was also a Confederate spy) to have dinner with the officers of the Michigan. During the dinner, the spy was to drug the officers' wine. The spy would then send a message to the terrorists, who could then easily capture the Michigan. With an ironclad warship and 3,200 troops, they could wreak havoc on Great Lakes' shipping and terrorize border cities.

The entire plot fell apart when the spy was discovered. When the terrorists failed to get the spy's message, they panicked. They put all their prisoners on the first ship and sunk the

second ship. They then sailed back to Canada in the first ship, where they released the prisoners, sunk and burned the ship, and abandoned their mission.

Following this failed plot, the War Department decided to federalize the new State Regiment. Effective January 9, 1865, it was now the 30th Michigan Infantry Regiment, with Regimental Headquarters in Detroit. The 30th Michigan served until the war ended. On June 30, 1865, the officers and men of the 30th Michigan were mustered out of service, paid off and sent home.

On May 12, 1864, at the age of 22, John Boone enlisted in the army as a Private, He volunteered in Hillsdale, Michigan for a 12 month term of service in Company G of 30th Michigan Volunteer Regiment, a State organization. In January 1865, the unit officially became a Federal unit. So on December 31, 1864 John was officially a member of the Michigan 30th Infantry Regiment.

On May 1, 1865, John was hospitalized in Jackson, Michigan for inflammation of the lungs or as the Army doctors called it, "Typhoid Newmonia". He remained in the hospital until his honorable discharge at the end of the war when on June 17, 1865 he was mustered out of the Army at Jackson. He continued to have lung problems the rest of his life.

After the war, he returned home, back to his farm in Hillsdale, where he and Almira had another son in 1866. About 1869, the family moved to nearby Grass Lake in Jackson County, buying a farm there, where they had 2 more sons. They lived there until about 1875, when they moved again to Ingham County. In Ingham County they had twin boys in 1876 and a daughter in 1877. In 1881, they moved to Brant Township in Saginaw County, Michigan. There, they had their ninth and last child, a daughter. They lived in Brant the rest of their lives.

John was a member of the organization the "Grand Army of the Republic" (GAR) Post 398. The GAR was a fraternal organization of former members of the U.S. military in the Civil War. They were a politically active group that once had a half million members. They were a major force in the Republican Party, with five of their members becoming U.S. President.

They retained their political power well into the 20th Century. They worked hard for veteran's rights and the establishment of pensions for veterans. In addition, in what was unusual for the times, the GAR recognized and respected the contribution of the millions of black soldiers in the Civil War. The GAR was an integrated organization, with huge numbers of black members. The GAR worked hard promoting the right of black veterans to vote. In 1868, the GAR was the first to designate May 30 as Decoration Day (later called Memorial Day) as the day to honor dead veterans by putting flowers and flags on their graves.

As John grew older his lung condition continued to worsen and he filed several pension applications. He was finally approved and he received a pension of \$2.00 a month. The amount increased over the years and he was getting \$27.00 a month at the time of his death from bronchitis in 1913 at the age of 71.

Almira died on March 5, 1926, at the age of 84, of a cerebral hemorrhage. Her granddaughter, Pearl remembered Almira fondly (Pearl was in her 20s at the time of Almira's death). Pearl loved to stay with her grandmother in the summertime. She said that her grandmother loved to sit on the front porch during nice weather. She always had time to talk with friends and neighbors who came by. Almira would sit in her rocking chair and rock, all the while puffing on her corn cob pipe.

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Another soldier in the Boone family was Spencer Welch. Spencer was born in Fulton, Ohio in 1844. At the age of 19, Spencer joined the Army as a private, enlisting in a State Regiment of Michigan Volunteers on July 12, 1863 in Hudson, Michigan, which is near the Ohio border in Southeast Michigan. For the next 5 months, Spencer and other new recruits learned the basics of how to be an artilleryman. On December 7, 1863, the volunteers were federalized and became part of the Union Army. Spencer began his Federal service in Battery F of the First Michigan Light Artillery Regiment.

The Union Army mandated that the State of Michigan furnish one Artillery Regiment. The First Michigan Light Artillery Regiment consisted of 12 Batteries, with each Battery having six guns. Battery F was originally organized at Coldwater in January 1862 and they were sent South in March.

Battery F's first action was near Richmond, Kentucky in August of 1862. Unfortunately, their first action was almost their last. Their infantry support was pushed back; the Battery was cut off; all the men had to retreat without their guns; and all their guns were captured. For the next year, being without guns, Battery F was placed on detached service at various outposts on garrison duty (basically just being a military presence in the area).

In December 1863, Battery F became artillery again. Spencer joined Battery F just in time to march across the Cumberland Mountains from Kentucky to Knoxville, Tennessee. The Battery arrived in Knoxville on January 22, 1864. It was a terrible march through the mountains, during severe winter conditions. The men and horses suffered greatly from the extreme cold. There was little food for the men or forage for the horses.

During the march, Spencer became very ill and had to be sent to the military hospital at Camp Nelson. Camp Nelson is about 20 miles south of Knoxville and today is a National Civil War Heritage Park and National Cemetery. The doctors at Camp Nelson gave Spencer the diagnosis of "typhoid malarial fever". As soon as Spencer was able to travel, he received a furlough and was sent home to recover. Military hospitals were crowded. There were few nurses. Hospitals got the soldier well enough to travel; then they sent them home, leaving the job of long-term nursing care to the soldier's family.

A furlough is basically an official vacation or extended leave of absence from the Army. It was a chance to go home for a time. In addition to getting a furlough for health reasons, the Army also used it as an inducement, to get a soldier to reenlist. This "veteran's furlough" was a reward given to the soldier when he reenlisted. A soldier who reenlisted was given an extended period of time (up to a month), where the soldier was allowed to return home. Since many soldiers enlisted as a group, many times large groups of soldiers (often entire regiments) were sent home on furlough at the same time. This often led to local "baby booms", when birth rates increased dramatically back home nine months later.

Many of the original men in Battery F had enlisted back in January 1862 for two years. Their enlistments ended in January 1864. On January 4, fifty men from Battery F reenlisted as veterans and received 30 day furloughs during which they returned to Michigan. Obviously, the Battery could not do too much until those men returned. When they returned to the Battery at the end of the 30 days, Battery F (including Spencer Welch) was reequipped, refitted and assigned to General Sherman's Army, who was just starting his Georgia Campaign.

Battery F left Knoxville at 9 o'clock on the morning of April 28, 1864, heading for Charleston, Tennessee. This was a 70 mile march and they reached Charleston on Sunday, May 1. They rested there until Tuesday morning May 3, and then marched until they reached Sherman's Army the following afternoon.

Battery F was very active in Sherman's campaign, with almost daily skirmishes during the famous "March across Georgia." They participated in many engagements, including the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in June. The Confederates had strong defensive positions on and around Kennesaw Mountain. They were protecting the city of Atlanta, which was less than 20 miles away. Starting in mid-June 1864, Sherman's Army and Battery F were fighting daily, often at close range, jockeying for position as they tried to force the Rebels out of their defenses. There were frequent artillery duels with the Confederates. Battery F lost many soldiers, horses, and guns. Union artillery was constantly shelling the Rebel lines. Finally, Sherman ordered an all-out frontal attack to be made on June 27 against the South.

The battle started at 8:00 a.m. with Union artillery firing over 200 guns at once at the Rebel line. Many artillery batteries, including Battery F, fired their guns all day long. Of course, the Rebel artillery fired back just as ferociously. An intense continuous barrage of shells was hitting both armies. Kennesaw Mountain erupted in smoke and fire.

Then Sherman ordered his attack. The Union army moved forward on an 8 mile front while the Rebs fired at them from well dug in defensive positions. The terrible fighting lasted all day, with Sherman's army gaining no ground and losing over 3,000 men. Finally Sherman stopped the attack. Once again the two armies jockeyed for positions, fighting constantly, with each trying to gain some advantage over the other. Sherman's army slowly moved closer to Atlanta.

Battery F kept moving forward toward Atlanta, fighting for every mile. It took Battery F over 3 weeks to move 15 miles closer. Artillery duels with Confederate batteries were a daily occurrence. By July 18, Battery F finally got close enough to shell the Rebel soldiers who were defending the last railroad tracks still entering Atlanta. Cut the railway line and the Confederate army would no longer get supplies. Without new supplies of food, ammo, and other necessary materials, the army would be forced to abandon the city.

Two hours of ferocious shelling by Battery F drove the Rebels away from the railroad. This allowed Union troops to cut the railway. The Rebels were unable to recapture the tracks. Without being able to resupply or reinforce, the Rebel troops could only become weaker every day. Now for the final push into Atlanta.

At dawn on July 20, Battery F started moving toward Atlanta. After only a short distance, they encountered enemy soldiers. All that day, there was hard, heavy, close in and bloody fighting. By nightfall, Battery F had been able to push about 2 to 3 miles closer to Atlanta. They worked most of the night putting up temporary breastworks (defensive barricades to protect the guns and men while they shot). By 3:00 in the morning on the 21st, they got their guns in position behind the breastworks. They were only 560 yards from the enemy line (less than 2 football fields away) and two and a half miles from the city.

At 3:00 a.m. Battery F started firing upon the enemy line, which of course began firing ferociously back. The battle raged all day. That afternoon, under heavy fire, Captain Paddock of Battery F climbed a tall pine tree as a spotter for one of their gun teams. With his spyglass, he started directing fire against targets in Atlanta. Therefore, Battery F had the honor of firing the first shells into Atlanta.

On the 22nd the enemy moved three batteries to a ridge overlooking Battery F's position and started heavy and intense firing. Shells were bursting all around them. As one member of Battery F later related, "It made it rather warm for us." The Union army sent heavy details of infantry to build (under fire) stronger fortifications for Battery F, while Battery F continued to fire shells at the enemy. However, the Rebel infantry counterattacked and by nightfall drove

Battery F and their supporting infantry back. Their hold did not last long. The Union army pushed back and recaptured the lost ground by nightfall on July 23. Battery F moved back to their original position, and for the next few weeks fired continuously into Atlanta. The Confederate army eventually abandoned Atlanta, and Sherman took the city on September 2.

Battery F stayed with Sherman's army as it marched, fought and pillaged across Georgia throughout the months of September and October. During this march, Spencer Welch rode one horse of a team of horses attached to a gun. Then Battery F was ordered to go back to Tennessee. In early November they traveled by rail to Chattanooga, then to Nashville, where they joined the army that was fighting against the Confederate Army led by General Hood. For the next six months, Battery F fought and marched all over eastern Tennessee and western North and South Carolinas.

One action of note began on December first, when the Union army discovered that Hood's army was quickly advancing towards them with a great number of men. Battery F, along with their Brigade, began a quick withdrawal; heading back to where they thought was safety, in Nashville. After marching all day and well into the night on the 1st, and all day long on the 2nd, they found themselves seven miles from Nashville. On December 2nd, they sent out scouts at nightfall, only to discover that there was a major Rebel army between them and Nashville. The Northerners decided that they would have to go back the way they came. They quickly broke camp and marched all night without halting. On the morning of the 3rd, they rested for one hour, and then marched all day without rest, reaching Charlotte at nightfall. There, they set up camp, having marched a distance of sixty miles.

On March 10, after three more months of marching and fighting, Battery F participated in the Battle of Wyse Forks in North Carolina. Battery F lost more men during this battle, in addition to the many sick and wounded. Battery F was becoming low on men. On April 8, 1865, they were ordered to New Bern, North Carolina to refit for field service. The war ended on April 9th. The battery eventually arrived back in Jackson, Michigan on June 24, and was mustered out of service on July 1, 1865. Thirty-three men of Battery F died during the war, with many more carrying the effects of disease or wounds for the rest of their lives.

Spencer Welch continued to have occasional bouts of malaria throughout the war. In early May, Spencer had another bout of malaria and was hospitalized for three weeks. By the time he was released, the rest of the Battery was already on their way back to Michigan, so Spencer did not return to his Battery. Instead, he was sent to David's Island in New York Harbor, where on June 10, 1865, he was mustered out of the army.

Spencer, now 21 years old, returned to Michigan, where he met 15 year old Anna Boone. Anna was James Boone's second daughter. Two years later, Spencer and Anna were married. After the war, Spencer was a life-long farmer. He was a member of the GAR Post 111 in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Bouts of malaria plagued him for the rest of his life, and he received a partial "Invalid Pension". However, the government did not consider him totally disabled until he turned 80. Spencer lived until the age of 81.

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Another Boone soldier was Edward Easling. Edward Easling was born on Valentine's Day, 1838 in Yates County, New York, where he grew up on his family's farm. On September 21, 1861, at the age of 23, Edward enlisted as a Private. He was given a \$100 bonus to enlist, which was a large amount of money at that time. He joined Company A, 8th New York Cavalry

Regiment on October 9, 1861. Edward was the perfect size for a cavalryman, 5 foot 5 and a solid 175 pounds. He loved horses and worked with horses throughout his life.

Company A was organized at Rochester, New York. Most, if not all, of Company A were from Rochester and surrounding farms. The regiment left Rochester on November 29, 1861, and served in the defenses of Washington, D.C. through December. On March 15, Company A was transferred to the Department of the Shenandoah, where they conducted cavalry operations throughout the Shenandoah Valley until June 17. Then they were transferred to the Army of the Potomac under General McClellan, where they remained for the rest of the war.

On May 25, 1862, while in the Shenandoah Valley, Company A fought in the First Battle of Winchester. General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and his army of 16,000 men attacked the Union army of only 6,500 at Winchester. The North lost over 2,000 men, with Jackson losing only 400. During this battle, Edward was shot in his right arm. A bullet hit him just below the shoulder. He was hospitalized in Frederick, Maryland, and sent home on furlough to recover. While he was back in New York, Edward married 17 year old Sarah Boone. Sarah was no longer living with her parents. She had been working in Penn Yan as a domestic servant since she was 15.

After a 30 day furlough, Edward returned to his company, which by now was part of the Army of the Potomac. Company A remained active, fighting all summer as part of McClellan's campaign against the Confederate Army under Robert E. Lee. Company A was in many battles, including the Battle at Harper's Ferry. Then on September 27, Company A fought at the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. In one day, there were over 23,000 American casualties.

There is little rest for cavalry. They are meant to be in continuous motion. They are the eyes and ears of an army. While other branches are in camp, cavalry is out riding, scouting, guarding, gathering information, and keeping a lookout. The cavalry is hard work. They are almost continuously "on duty". However, the cavalryman would have it no other way. They'd do almost anything rather than walk a half mile.

Unfortunately, the frequent battles and skirmishes, the loss of sleep, and short rations, took a heavy toll on both men and horses. In addition, a job with horses under war conditions is particularly physically demanding. Horses can function on poor food for only so long. They can survive on grass, but they require richer food, like corn and especially oats, to work at the high pace of war. These demands, along with battle losses and the difficulty in finding enough quality horses with the stamina, skills and temperament needed for cavalry, frequently led to a shortage of horses. Dismounted cavalry were not doing their job as cavalry. At times there were hundreds of skilled troopers literally standing around, because of the lack of horses.

The Union Army continued sparring with Lee. On Nov. 16, 1862, Edward was shot again. He was shot in the arm. His horse was also shot. The horse fell, landing on Edward and breaking his leg. From that point on, Edward was never again able to lift his arm above his shoulder. Once again, Edward was sent home on a 30 day furlough to heal. However, the wound and his leg did not heal quickly.

Because of this, he was not able to return to his unit until August, over seven months late. He discovered that he had been listed as a deserter. After this was resolved, Edward was sent, on September 9, 1863, to Culpepper, Virginia, to continue his recovery with a light duty assignment. He was assigned to Company K, 23rd Regiment, U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps. On April 6, 1864, after seven months, Edward recovered enough to be sent back to Company A.

During his absence, Edward missed a lot of fighting. Company A was in almost continuous fighting. In July 1863, Company A fought at Gettysburg, where in 3 days nearly 50,000 Americans became casualties. Company A suffered many casualties during heavy fighting on and around Seminary Ridge. Edward also missed the bloody Battle of the Wilderness in early May, with its nearly 30,000 American casualties.

The 8th New York Cavalry had a combination of 2 year and 3 year men. The 2 year men had enlisted back in May 1862. A few days after the Wilderness their enlistments were up and they would be free to go home. Many of them, however, decided to reenlist as veterans. They were each given a 30 day furlough as an incentive to reenlisting.

When Edward returned to active duty in May 1864, the 2 year veterans were still on their furlough. With all these men on furlough, along with their battle losses, and a shortage of horses, the 8th Cavalry was basically in a waiting mode until they could return to full strength. During this rare time off, the men played various games to amuse themselves. The most common activity was baseball. One soldier reported a game between the officers and the men, with a final score of: officers - 41, enlisted men - 22.

At the end of May, the 2 year veterans returned from their 30 days at home. They brought with them a "Banner," hand stitched and presented to them by the "Young Ladies of Rochester". During the presentation in Rochester, the young ladies had given the veterans a testimonial which said, in part: "Reenlisted Veterans, still eager to draw the sword to preserve the integrity of our country, we love you. Men of the 8th Cavalry! As you go forward to meet the enemy in the new and exciting campaign before you under the folds of this battle Flag, remember its donors, whose hearts beat warmly and tenderly towards you." This was very well-meaning, but the veterans had long ago stopped seeing the glory of war.

One soldier wrote home, "Our veterans have returned, most of them with renewed health and spirits, from their visit to the old Empire State. They have not received their horses yet, which causes some dissatisfaction, as they have not been accustomed to infantry exercise for the last two years or more." Not enough horses, but at least they had a "Banner".

The soldiers were also angry about the military's "cruel and cowardly policy" in regard to the 2 year men. Apparently, the treatment given the 2 year men who did not reenlist was not so warm and caring. In the days leading up to the end of their enlistment, these men were placed in the most dangerous positions during battles and skirmishes and given the most dangerous assignments. These men who had been fighting bravely for 2 years could have been placed in safer situations, such as the rear guard. Instead, their commanders would put them in the front rank during a charge on the enemy, or give them the most dangerous mission. This was not to punish, or intentionally kill or injure these soldiers. The army's logic was more practical: since someone had to do these dangerous, nearly suicidal jobs, why should we place the men that we will need in the future in harm's way? Why not use the men who will be leaving us anyway?

Another policy angered the men. Facing the enormous expense of buying new horses and equipment, the Regiment charged the soldiers for horses and equipment that the men had lost. In one example, a man fell off his horse during an enemy attack when the horse stumbled. The Rebels captured the horse. The man was fine, until payday, when he received no pay. He was told that the value of the horse and his equipment was being charged against him. His pay would be withheld until the debt was repaid.

Men were often taken prisoners. Months later, when they were exchanged and returned to the 8th Cavalry, the men learned that they were being charged for their lost horses and equipment. They would receive no pay until they worked off their debt to the government, even

though their normal pay was only \$13 a month. At the start of the war a good horse cost about \$125; by the end of the war the price was up to \$185.

In early June, Company A fought at Cold Harbor, followed by heavy fighting in front of Petersburg. On June 29, 1864, south of Petersburg, Virginia, Company A was on a raid near Stony Creek. Company A got caught in an ambush, and Edward was shot in the left hand and captured. He was sent to the infamous prisoner of war camp at Andersonville, where he was imprisoned for five months. During the course of the war, almost 13,000 of the approximately 45,000 Union prisoners died there. Andersonville was a hell hole of starvation, malnutrition, disease, and abuse from its guards.

Edward received little medical care, small amounts of bad food, and drank the same swampy water the prisoners polluted daily with their waste. Prisoners slept on the open, bare ground, with little or no cover. During the time Edward was there, over one third of the Union prisoners died from scurvy, malnutrition, dysentery and exposure. They were then buried in mass graves.

Edward started the war at 175 pounds. After five months at Andersonville, he weighed only 77 pounds. When he was released, he was suffering from scurvy, eye problems, and severe intestinal ailments. Edward never fully recovered.

After Edward's release on a prisoner exchange, he was sent to a military hospital. When he finally recovered enough, and it looked like he would probably survive, he was sent back home to Rochester, New York. There, on February 15, 1865, he was mustered out of the army.

In Edward's application for a pension, his wife, Sarah, wrote of the effects of malnourishment: "his mouth and gums and throat were so affected that he could only speak in a whisper. It was three months before he could speak a loud word." Edward wrote: "[My] mouth became sore ... my jaws, head and face swelled up and pieces of jaw bones with flesh attached to it came out. From that time on, I kept losing my teeth until there are only five left." In addition to the effects of his malnutrition and scurvy, Edward continued to have vision problems, and he would never read or write again.

The 8th Calvary and Company A continued to fight until the end of the war, including many bloody battles. They remained with the Army of the Potomac, chasing General Lee's Army, until the very end. They were present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox. They also marched in the "Grand Review" in Washington D.C. at the end of the war, before they were mustered out and sent home.

By 1867, the Easlings had moved to Michigan, along with most of the Boone family. They lived at Grass Lake, where they stayed with George Boone, Sarah's brother. Edward and Sarah had two children, Gilbert and Sarah. Edward worked as a brick maker and continued working with horses while collecting a government pension.

In the late 1880s, the couple moved to Hillsdale, Michigan, where they lived the rest of their lives. Edward worked as the Hillsdale Cemetery sexton. He died of stomach cancer on May 11, 1918 at the age of 80. Edward was an active member of the GAR and was given a full GAR funeral ceremony. Sarah died in 1932 at the age of 88.