

99th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry

By Bernie Murphy

This history is written mainly due to the fact that my great grandfather Cyrus Brunton, a farmer from Morroco, was a member of this Civil War Regiment and fought along with other soldiers from Newton County.

This regiment was organized at Camp Rose (the old fairgrounds) in South Bend and mustered in on October 21, 1862 for a term of three years service. Company "E" in which my great grandfather belonged also included other men from Newton, Jasper and Carroll Counties. Colonel Alexander Fowler commanded the 99th and Captain Daniel Ash was in charge of Company E along with first lieutenant Samuel Moore. The regiment consisted of 942 men. On September 27th, 1862 Cyrus Brunton was paid \$27.00 for "bounty and pay" during the company "Muster-in Roll". During the three year enlistment of these men, they marched 3,620 miles, were transported by water some 1,895 miles and by train 716 miles for a total of 6,231 miles through 15 states. Company E had 2 killed in action and 22 dead from disease. For the entire regiment, 45 were killed or mortally wounded; 5 officers and 147 enlisted men died of disease.

During the three years endured by the 99th Indiana, they were involved in four major campaigns:

West Tennessee and Mississippi Campaigns culminating in the surrender of Vicksburg and opening the Mississippi River to complete control by the Union force.

Culminating in the Battle of Mission Ridge and the relief of Knoxville and saving Chattanooga and the State of Tennessee.

Atlanta Campaign

"March to the Sea" and the campaign of the Carolinas resulting in the surrender of General Johnston to General Sherman ending the war on April 25, 1865.

The 99th was first attached to the 13th Army Corp. in November 1862, then to the 17th Army Corp in January 1863, the 16th Army Corp. in July 1863 then, finally the 15th Army Corp. in August 1864 until the end of the war. During this latter assignment the 99th was included in the Military Division of the Mississippi under the command of Major General William T. Sherman, the Army of the Tennessee, the 15th Army Corp. of Maj. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus, 2nd Div. Gen. William B. Hazen, 3rd Brigade Col. John H. Oliver and, finally, the 99th Indiana Regiment under Lt. Col. John Berkley.

During the winter of 1862-1863 the 99th Regiment guarded the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. On May 6, 1863 they were loaded on steamers and traveled down the Mississippi River to Vicksburg joining General Grant's siege of the city; they arrived there on July 4, 1863, the same day Grant took possession of the city. (An event separate from the military action took place later in September, 1863 the wife of Young Thompson, a member of the 99th, came to John Ade (father of George Ade) to ask if he would go to Vicksburg, MS and see if he could get her husband home as he was very sick. Mr. Ade said he would and he went to Indianapolis to see Governor Morton who gave him a letter stating Mr. Ade's business and that he be permitted to pass through the lines. Without the letter from the Governor he would never

have gotten past Memphis but he finally secured final passage to Vicksburg where he was informed that Young Thompson had been sent up river on a hospital boat to the general hospital in St. Louis. Upon Mr. Ade's arrival home he informed Mrs. Thompson of her husband's whereabouts. She immediately proceeded to St. Louis where she found her husband. He was too ill to bring home and died a few days after her arrival.) From Vicksburg the 99th joined General Sherman's Army, marching to Jackson, Mississippi and skirmishing at Big Black River and then on to Chattanooga, arriving there on November 24, 1863. The next day the Regiment took part in the battle of Missionary Ridge; after this battle, they marched to Knoxville fighting almost constantly all the way. Many of the men of the 99th were barefoot and without blankets or adequate supplies. The Union forces at Knoxville caused General Longstreet to retreat. The regiment was then ordered to Scottsboro, Alabama reaching there on December 26, 1863.

On May 1, 1864 the 99th took part in Sherman's Atlanta campaign fighting at Resaca on May 14, Dallas on May 28th, and then the battle in front of Atlanta from July 20th to July 28th. On October 3rd the regiment pursued General Hood to Little River Georgia and marched 200 miles back to Atlanta. During this campaign, Union and Confederate forces met in seven regular battles, fifty engagements usually called combats, and forty-eight skirmishes

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Newton County Soliders in the 99th Regiment

Cyrus Brunton	William A. Patrick	Andrew Murphey
William W. Downes	Asa Yeoman	John Brown
George W. Smith	James Burns	John Reynolds
James W. Graves	Allen Catt	John W. Moore
Stephen D, Kerns	Jacob Housheldt	E.J. Shideler
John Barker	William Holloway	John Grenfeldt
William Rinker	A. B. Hosier	Joseph Shafer
B. T. Roadruck	E. L. Humphries	William Wilson
Solomon Ash	F. B. Jones	Elias W. Shaner
William Airhart	Hiram W. Kelley	George O. Pumphrey
Charles Bartholomew	Carroll L. Shideler	Paul LaForce
Sylvester Board	D. W. Lowe	John Starkey
William Brown	Thomas Moore	Abraham W. Bebout
Christian Enfield	Solomon Shriver	Thomas L. Thornton
John Holloway	A. J. Saunderson	Austin W. Darroch
Joseph Hooks	S. M. Skeggs	G.C. VanNatta
Jonas L. Horner	David F. Dunham	Clark A. Wood
John Johnson	John C. Sarver	John D. Wyatt
Joseph Kennedy	Thomas Starkey	William F. Board
Henry S. Kramer	Young Thompson	Andrew S. Young
Joseph L. Lafoon	J. Weber	J. E. Longwell
Benjamin Martin	Levi White	James Atkinson
W.H. Alexander	James Anderson	G.C. Bartholomew
James A. Griffith	Abner Bartholomew	

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besides regular picket duty, making a total of 105 regular actions! On November 15th the 99th Regiment joined again with General Sherman's Army on the infamous "March to the Sea" which endured from November 15 to December 10 culminating in the siege and surrender of Savannah. This latter victory was General Sherman's Christmas gift to President Lincoln.

From January 1865 until April 1865 the 99th participated in the Campaign of the Carolinas fighting and capturing Columbia, S.C., February 15-17; the Battle of Bentonville, N.C. March 19-21, occupation of Goldsboro March 24, occupation of Raleigh April 14 and, finally the surrender of General Johnston on April 26 and the end of the war. From April 29 to May 20 they marched to Washington D.C. via Richmond.

The 99th Indiana Infantry participated in the Grand Review on March 24 marching through the streets of Washington before President Abraham Lincoln and other Washington dignitaries. The 99th was then "mustered" out of service and returned to Indiana via Indianapolis where the regiment partook in a reception for returned soldiers on June 11th given in the state house grounds where Governor Morton welcomed them home.

Peculiar sayings and humorous stories abound from this epic war, many of which are attributed to the 99th. One such term was "skedaddle" which came about when some soldiers were flanked in battle and ordered to save themselves by getting back to a new line as quickly as possible. One of them outran the others and when halted by an officer, was asked, "What are you running for?" "Simply because I can't fly" he answered "All right" said the officer "skedaddle, then." Two other words originating during the conflict were "greyback" and "greenback". The former little pest was so called from the fact they were originally found in abandoned confederate camps. They had, however, no respect for "Yank" or "Johnny". The green back when first issued, was ridiculed greatly by the "Johnnies". They

asked, "What is the difference between Job and the greenback?" The answer was "The former knew that his redeemer liveth, but the greenback has no redeemer". Another was "bummer" which before the war was a distasteful term; but there was a band of men in the 99th who called themselves "Sherman's bummers". They fed the Army from the countryside, scouted the country, captured towns and did much to make the enemy's cavalry trouble on the march to the sea and up through the Carolinas. Another was during a meeting where the chaplain was preaching on the text, "If God be for us who can be against us?" He repeated



This tin type was made of Cyrus Bruton upon joining the 99th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Bernie Murphy Collection.

the saying several times rather vehemently when an Irish soldier asked, Chaplain, would ye like to know?" "Certainly" answered the chaplain. "Jeff Davis an' the divil, then, if you want to know".

Sources: "New History of the 99th Indiana Infantry" by Chaplain D.R. Lucas, copyright 1900; "A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion" by Frederick H. Dyer, copyright 1908; "Newton County, 1853-1911" by John Ade, copyright 1911; "Southern Storm - Sherman's March to the Sea" by Noah Andre Trudeau, copyright 2008