

SMITH AND EMERY IN U.S. CIVIL WAR

A few years ago I was playing with my computer and by accident came upon The Illinois Secretary of State Web site. This site contains names of men from Illinois who fought in the U.S. Civil War. I was surprised to find that the Smith and Emery families as well as their wives families played a very active role in the Civil War. Listed below are the names of people that you might recognize:

Corporal Jordan Smith of Company B 109th Illinois Infantry from Thebes
Private James Emery of Company B 109th Illinois Infantry from South Pass
Private David Emery of Company B 109th Illinois Infantry from South Pass
Private John Emery of Company K 9th Illinois Infantry. (Mounted) Johnson Co.
Private Moses Emery of Company K 9th Illinois Infantry (Mounted) from Anna
Private Henry Emery of Company D 65th Illinois Infantry from Marion
Corporal Peter Lingle of Company C 109th Illinois Infantry from Jonesboro
Private Absalom Lingle Company C 109th Illinois Infantry from South Pass
Private Caleb Lingle Company G 109th Illinois Infantry from Dongola
Wagoner Daniel Lingle of Company C 109th Illinois Infantry from South Pass
Corporal John F. Lingle of Company C 109th Illinois Infantry from South Pass
Private Silas Lingle of Company C 109th Illinois Infantry from South Pass
Private Peter Lingle of Company A 109th Illinois Infantry from Jonesboro
Private Lawrence Lingle of Company A 109th Illinois Infantry from Jonesboro
Private William Martin of Company K 9th Illinois Infantry (Mounted) Union
Calvin Carter of Company C 109th Illinois Infantry
Peter Norton of Company B 18th Illinois Infantry
Corporal Jefferson Lingle of Company C 109th Illinois Infantry

Items of Interest

Listed below are some random thoughts and comments that hopefully someday will be better organized. I wanted to pass along this information before it became too complex and also circulate it in a timely manner. One of the major problems you will notice is that I appear to be overly concerned about military units and generals. Early, in my research I discovered that most histories do not list units as small as regiments so it became necessary to keep track of generals and higher level military units. The Regiment was organized on the State level and companies usually were made up of men from one county or community. Commissioned Officers were appointed by the State Legislature. Non-commissioned Officers were elected by the men. There were a number of regiments in Illinois that were formed by men who were of one nationality such as German or Irish. Also, quite a few of these regiments were formed by men with the same occupational background. One unit called the Teachers Regiment was made up of men who were attending Illinois Normal College (Illinois State University). A regiment that was led by a Methodist Minister had so many members of the clergy that the regiment

that it was called the Preachers Regiment. Men from the Chicago Board of Trade joined the same artillery unit and played a major part in the war in the west along the Mississippi.

The Union Army was organized in the following manner:

Theaters – East and West (Most Illinois units were in the West)
Departments – These were grouping of States
Armies – Are made up of 2 or more Corps 16,000 men
Corps – Are made up of 2 or more Divisions 8,000men
Divisions – Are made up of 2 or more Brigades 4,000 men
Brigades – Are made up of 2 or more Regiments 2,000 men
Regiments – Are made up of 10 Companies A through K (there was no J Company) 1,200 men
Battalions – Are made up of 5 Companies
Company – Approximately 100 men

As the war went on the numbers of men in the above units became smaller. Rather than add more men to existing regiments the common practice was to form new regiments when there was a need for new soldiers.

While collecting information on war records of various people I found the following information that you may find of interest:

THE EMERY'S

James Emery, David Emery, John Emery, Moses Emery, and Henry Emery all served in the Union Army. David Emery died in service on October 18, 1864 and is buried at Mound City National Cemetery. James Emery died on January 13, 1866 of chronic diarrhea contracted in the service shortly after being discharge and he is buried at Alto Pass, Illinois. John Emery died at the battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee. Henry and Moses Emery survived the war.

David Emery died in Cairo, IL on Oct. 18, 1864 at a Military Hospital. I do not know the cause of death but it appears to have been disease rather than related to wounds. David Emery was still in the Army at the time of his death. James Emery received a Medical Discharge on May 13, 1865. James Emery's Medical Discharge states that he suffered from chronic conjunctivitis. Chronic conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the mucus membrane that lines the surface of the eyelids. In June 1863 James Emery was placed in the hospital at Lake Providence, Louisiana for a fever. While he was there he contracted conjunctivitis according to his medical report. While he was in this hospital he also contracted chronic diarrhea from which he later died.

EMMA
James Emery's wife Louisa Norton married Calvin Carter on June 21, 1868. This was three years after the death of James Emery. Louisa Norton and Calvin Carter was married by Justice of the Peace John Rendleman. I did locate a document from a William K. Smith of Alto Pass in which he states that he knew both James Emery and Louisa Norton prior to their marriage on December 24, 1854. Calvin Carter was a member of Company C 109th Infantry and lived in Jonesboro. There was a Peter Norton from Thebes who served in Company B. 18th IL. Infantry. I do not know if he is any relation to Louisa Norton. ? LOOMIS

JORDAN SMITH

Jordan Smith was discharged from the Army on May 22, 1865 at Memphis, Tenn. At the time of his Honorable Discharge he was in Overton Military Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. suffering from an eye condition. Jordan Smith's Honorable Discharge was granted approximately two months earlier than the remainder of the men in his regiment. There is a very good chance that David and James Emery may not have known Jordan Smith until they enlisted in the same company. The Emery's were from the Alto Pass area and Jordan Smith was from Thebes. These two places are almost twenty-five miles apart and in different counties. After the Civil War Jordan Smith moved to the Anna/Jonesboro area. Enlistment papers state that Jordan Smith was born in Kentucky in 1837.

I have copies of his Honorable Discharge papers and I also have papers and correspondence to the federal government in which he is seeking to re-establish his pension for the eye injury suffered during service in the Civil War while fighting with his unit in the State of Mississippi. One of these papers list Jordan Smith's place of birth as Union County, Kentucky. Since Jordan Smith could not read or write it is possible that this was a mistake. It is interesting to note that there is a Union County in Kentucky and it is located along the Ohio River opposite Shawneetown. The Census of 1850 lists a Jordan Smith as residing in Crawford County, Arkansas. This is consistent with family records. We do know that Jordan Smith was in Arkansas in 1856. The Census of 1830 lists a Jordan Smith residing in Sangamon County, Illinois and the 1820 Census lists a Jordan Smith residing in Cabell County, Virginia. Cabell County is now in West Virginia and is located in the area of Huntington, W.V. I do not know who these Jordan Smiths are but they may possibly be the same person or maybe a relative such as a father or uncle.

RELATED COMMENTS

All of the men identified above listed their occupations on the company roster as farmers. All of the men listed as Corporal were reduced to Privates when the 109th Illinois Infantry was dissolved and the men were transferred to the 11th Illinois Infantry. David Emery and James Emery were privates and were born in Rowan County, North Carolina. Rowan County has since been divided into five (5) different counties. Rowan County, North Carolina was settled by a large number of people of Scot-Irish decent.

LINGLES

. I do not know who the Lingles are but Jordan Smith was married to Mary Lingle. The Lingles had lived in Union County since the early 1820's. A person named Anthony Lingle from Union County is listed as a member of Craig's Company. Craig's Company was a unit from southern Illinois that was enlisted to fight in the Black Hawk War in 1835. Anthony Lingle is recorded in the 1820 Illinois Census as residing in Union County. Anthony Lingle is also listed as a resident of Rowan County, North Carolina in the census of 1810. A woman by the name of Massey Lingle married a man by the name of Lence while they both were residing in Rowan County, N.C. A number of people who are listed in the 1810 census whose surnames are Lence and Lingle are listed as living in Rowan County, N.C. In the 1820 census these exact same names appear as people living in Union County, Illinois.

The President Calls for Volunteers

In April 1861 President Lincoln makes his first call for troops. The first six regiments in Illinois are the 7th through the 12th. The 9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment is formed in the months of July, August and September and is made up of men from central and southern Illinois. John Emery at the age of 24 and William Martin the husband of John's sister enlist in Company K of the 9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment on September 3, 1861. Marion Morrison, John Wayne's Great Uncle was Chaplain of the 9th Illinois and wrote a book about their service in the Civil War.

On February 15, 1862 the 9th Illinois attacked Fort Donelson which is located in the State of Tennessee. Fort Donelson guarded the mouth of the Tennessee River. The 9th Illinois was in General McArthur's Brigade (General McArthur was the father of the World War II General Douglas McArthur). McArthur's Brigade was in General McClelland's 2nd Corps. At first light on February 15, 1862 the 9th, 12th and 41st Illinois Regiments which made up McArthur's Brigade began the attack on Fort Donelson. During the second charge on the enemy fortifications the 12th and 41st Illinois Regiments fell back. The 9th Illinois Regiment held its position for two and one half-hours. The 9th finally fell back when its ammunition was exhausted. It was during this fight that John Emery was killed. That day the 9th Illinois Regiment started with a total of 600 men. When the day was done 35 men had been killed, 160 wounded and 6 taken prisoners. On the 16th of February Fort Donelson was captured and 2000 rebels were taken prisoners.

On March 18, 1864 Moses Emery who was 21 years of age joined Company K of the 9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Unit. This was two years after the death of his brother John.

Illinois was brought back up to normal fighting strength and the men of the disbanded 109th Illinois received proper leadership.

Following is a summary of the travels of Jordan Smith, James Emery, David Emery, and the Lingles while they were in the 11th Illinois Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. The men of the 109th Illinois were merged with the 11th Illinois Infantry on April 10, 1863. The 11th Illinois Infantry was a part of the 2nd Brigade, 6th Division, 17th Corps. The 2nd Brigade was under the command of General T.E.G. Ransom from Farina, Illinois. The 6th Division was under the command of General John McArthur (grandfather of General McArthur of World War II fame). The 17th Corps was under the command of Major General James McPherson. The 2nd Brigade consisted of the 11th Illinois Infantry, 72nd Illinois Infantry, 95th Illinois Infantry, 14th Wisconsin Infantry and the 17th Wisconsin Infantry

In early April James Emery had a fever and was sent to the hospital at Lake Providence, Louisiana. While in the hospital he encountered problems with his eyes. James Emery remained in the hospital until July. He was then given leave to return home to recover from his illness. He returned from leave in September 1863. Nine months later Mary Elizabeth Emery is born.

On April 6, 1863 the 17th Corps left Lake Providence, Louisiana and moved to the rear of Vicksburg, Mississippi by way of Richmond, Perkins' Landing, Grand Gulf, Raymond, and Black River. All of these were important battles but the 2nd Brigade which includes the 11th Illinois Regiment, was held in reserve and did not encounter confederate troops. These troop movements were part of U.S. Grant's plan to capture Vicksburg.

On April 6, 1863 the 17th Corps is moved from Lake Providence to Milliken's Bend, Louisiana arriving on April 24, 1863. They were assigned the duty of keeping open the road from Richmond, La. South to Smith Plantation, which was at the junction of Bayou Vidal and the Roundaway Bayou a few miles north of New Carthage, La. Ransom's 2nd Brigade that included the 11th Illinois was posted at Smith's Plantation.

On May 1, the 13th Corps under General McClelland of Illinois and the 17th Corps a total of approximately 50,000 men crossed the Mississippi at Hard Times, Mississippi. Ransom's 2nd Brigade along with the 3rd Brigade are left behind to guard Grant's supply line for the men of 13th and 17th Corps. On May 10, the 2nd and 3rd Brigades cross the Mississippi River and are assigned the duty of guarding the Supply Train for the 13th and 17th Corps from Confederate Raiders. These two Brigades and the Supply Train were under the command of General McArthur.

The Supply Train traveled by way of Raymond arriving at Champion Hill on the evening of May 16 which was a few hours after the completion of the Battle of Champion Hill.

At Champion Hill Ransom's 2nd Brigade that includes the 11th Illinois joined up with the rest of the 17th Corps. The 2nd and 3rd Brigades and the entire 17th Corps along with the Supply train then proceeded to the Big Black River Bridge. They arrived at the Big Black River Bridge at 1:00 P.M. This was approximately one hour after the conclusion of the Battle of the Big Black River Bridge. The Battles of Champion Hill and the Big Black River Bridge were two major Union victories. On the morning of May 18, 1863 the entire 17th Corps crossed the Big Black River at Amsterdam, Mississippi. Later that day they are joined by General Sherman's 15th Corps. In all there were approximately 80,000 men marching towards Vicksburg. During this march, the 13th, 15th and 17th Corps consisted of 80,000 men whose march was led by Ransom's Brigade with the 11th Illinois Infantry as the lead unit. On May 18th the 11th Illinois and the rest of the 2nd Brigade were the lead unit as the Army of 80,000 men found themselves within 450 yards of the enemy works at Vicksburg.

On May 18th, 19th and 22nd the Union troops of the 13th, 15th, and 17th Corps assaulted the enemy works at Vicksburg. The 11th Illinois played a major role in the assaults on Vicksburg. During these assaults the 11th Illinois lost its Colonel, 3 officers and 40 men. After the failure of these assaults, General Grant decided to place Vicksburg under siege. On July 4, 1863 the City of Vicksburg surrendered. Some years after the war the State of Illinois constructed a monument in honor of the men from Illinois who had fought at Vicksburg. The names of the men by unit are listed on this monument. Under the heading of the 11th Illinois Company "A" you will find the name of the various Lingles. Under the heading of Company "G" you find the names David Emery and Gordan Smith. Since there was no Gordan Smith in Company "G" you can assume the name should be Jordan. On this monument is listed the highest rank obtained so the noncommissioned officers from the 109th Illinois still have their old rank. Corporal Jordan Smith is listed as Corporal Gordan Smith. James Emery did not take part in the Battle of Vicksburg because he was home on leave back in Illinois recovering from his eye illness. James Emery returned to the 11th Illinois Regiment on October 1, 1863. For the remainder of his service James Emery worked in either regimental supply or the commissary when not in the hospital. Jordan Smith, David Emery and the Lingles survived the Battle of Vicksburg.

On July 17, 1863 General Alexander Chambers assumed command of 2nd Brigade and the 11th Illinois moved with expedition to Natchez, Mississippi. On October 23rd they went on an expedition to Woodville, Mississippi before returning to Vicksburg. The 11th Illinois made their headquarters at Vicksburg until July 29, 1864. On September 14, 1863 the 2nd Brigade, 6th Division, 17th Corps designation is changed to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, and 17th Corps and assigned the duty of guarding Vicksburg. The 2nd Brigade is under the command of James H. Coates and the 1st Division is under the command of General Elias S. Dennis. Both of these Officers are from Illinois. During the months of January and February James Emery was back in the hospital in Vicksburg suffering from his eye illness.

Coates' Yazoo Mississippi Expedition

On January 31, 1864 the 11th Illinois is separated from the 2nd Brigade and is joined with the 8th Louisiana Infantry which is later designated the 47th United States Colored Troops (USCT) and the 1st Mississippi Cavalry, which is later designated the 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry. February 1 to March 8, 1864 this combined unit went on an expedition known as the Coates' Yazoo, Mississippi Expedition. This was a diversion to assist Sherman with his Meridian Campaign. The Meridian Campaign was Sherman's plan to destroy the confederate rail center at Meridian, Mississippi and by doing so the Union would gain control of central Mississippi. Sherman's plan was to send a fleet of five gunboats, accompanied by infantry on transports, that would move up the Yazoo River as far as Greenwood, Mississippi and remain on the river for two to three weeks to draw attention from Sherman's main column which was marching to Meridian. This expedition was under the command of Colonel James H. Coates who was also in command of the 11th Illinois Infantry. Colonel Coates' command consisted of the 11th Illinois Infantry, the 8th Louisiana Infantry (colored) commanded by Ferdinand E. Peebles, and the 1st Mississippi Cavalry (colored) commanded by Embury D. Osband. The gunboats were under the command of Elias K. Owens. On February 5th the expedition engaged General Lawrence S. Ross' confederate cavalry at Liverpool Heights. Ross repulsed two attacks and the union forces returned to the boats. The 11th Illinois lost 4 killed and 9 wounded during this engagement. On February 9th the Union forces took possession of Yazoo City, Mississippi. On February 11th they engaged a small unit of confederate cavalry. On February 14th the Union forces took possession of Greenwood, Mississippi. On February 19th they received orders to return to Yazoo City. They immediately move down river with all of the livestock, cotton and corn that they could collect and carry. On February 20, 1864 while the 11th Illinois was moving from Greenwood, Mississippi Jordan Smith was a member of the skirmish line. A skirmish line was a tactic that was commonly used during the Civil War. A skirmish line consisted of a few members of the regiment who were placed a short distance in front of regiment. The skirmish line would often engage the enemy and provide information concerning enemy activities, strengths and movements. Accounts of the unit's activities on February 20th state that the skirmish line on that day was almost constantly in contact with the enemy. All day long the men in the skirmish line exchanged rifle fire with the confederates. The confederates were trying to hinder the movement of the expedition from Greenwood to Yazoo City. That night the men of the 11th Illinois and the 8th Louisiana spent the night in battle formation. The next morning Jordan Smith had inflamed eyes and complained of difficulty with his vision. This vision problem continued throughout the remainder of his life. While the 11th Illinois and the 8th Louisiana were fighting their way from Greenwood to Yazoo City, Colonel Osband moved his Union cavalry down river arriving at Yazoo City a few hours before the Union infantry arrived by boat. After arriving at Yazoo City, Colonel Osband engaged Ross' Confederate cavalry and drove Ross out of the city. Later that day the boats arrived with the 11th Illinois and the 8th Louisiana and the infantry disembarked. On March 4th Coates learned that Ross had receive reinforcements. On the morning of March 5th Ross attacked the Union troops again and retook Yazoo City. The fighting continued until 2:00 pm when Coates has his men charge the town and successfully drove the confederates out of town. After Coates secured Yazoo City he then ordered his command to begin its march back to Vicksburg. On March 5th the 11th Illinois lost 8 men killed, 24 wounded with 12 men reported missing.

District of Vicksburg

Upon their return to Vicksburg the 11th Illinois Regiment is assigned to the 1st Division, 17th Corps and are assigned peace keeping duties in the central region of Mississippi. The 1st Division of the 17th Corps remained in Vicksburg while the remainder of the 17th Corps was involved in the Atlanta Campaign. The District of Vicksburg is under the command of General Henry Slocum. The 1st Division is under the command of General Elias Dennis and the 2nd Brigade is under the command of James H. Coates. While the 11th Illinois was headquartered at Vicksburg they participated in the following expeditions: a) April 6th to 28th at the Black River Bridge, b) May 4th to 21st expedition to Yazoo City, Benton, and Vaughn's Station, Mississippi. During this expedition they took a prominent part in three important skirmishes. c) July 1st to July 7th the 11th Illinois went with expedition to Jackson, Mississippi under General Slocum where they engaged the enemy three times.

On July 29th the 11th Illinois along with the other units in General Dennis' 1st Division is designated as 2nd Division, 19th Corps and is moved to Morganzia. The 19th Corps was under the commanded by General Joe Reynolds. They were headquartered at Morganzia until September 3, 1864. During this period they participated in an expedition to Clinton, Louisiana.

On September 3, 1864 the 11th Illinois was moved to the mouth of the White River in Arkansas where it reported to General Fredrick Steele of the Department of Arkansas. On October 8th 1864 the 11th Illinois was moved to Memphis, Tenn. October 27th 1864 the 11th Illinois was moved back to the mouth of the White River. November 6th and 7th 1864 the 11th Illinois participated in an expedition to Gaines Landing, Arkansas. November 8th 1864 the 11th Illinois was moved to Duvall's Bluff, Ark. In November 1864 Jordan Smith was placed into Overton Hospital in Memphis suffering from the eye problem he obtain at Yazoo City in February 1864. Jordan Smith remained in Overton Hospital until his release from service in May 1865.

On November 25, 1864 the 11th Illinois was assigned to the Military Division of West Mississippi Reserve Corps. This Reserve Corps consisted of the troops formerly belonging to the 19th Corps that was within the limits of the Military Division of West Mississippi. General Gordan Granger commanded the West Mississippi Reserve Corps. General Fredrich Steele commanded the 1st Division and General Elias Dennis commanded 2nd Brigade that included the 11th Illinois Infantry. November 30th to December 4th 1864 the 11th Illinois was en route to Memphis, Tenn. December 20th to December 31st 1864 the 11th Illinois went on an expedition to Moscow, Tenn. January 1st to 5th 1865 the 11th Illinois was en route to Kenner, Louisiana. February 4th to 7th 1865 the 11th Illinois was moved by boat to Dauphine Island via Lake Pontchartrain. At Dauphine Island James Emery is placed in the regimental hospital because of his eye illness.

Assault on Mobile, Alabama

On February 18, 1865 the 11th Illinois is assigned to the 3rd Brigade under the command of Col. James Coates, 1st Division under the command of General James Veatch, 13th Corps under the Command of General Gordon Granger. The 13th Corps became a part of the Army of the Gulf that was under the overall command of General Canby. March 17th to April 12th 1865 the 11th Illinois was engaged in operations against Mobile, Alabama.

On March 17, Veatch's 1st Division that included the 11th Illinois crossed on transports from Dauphin Island to Navy Cove and arrived at Dannelly's Mill on March 24. Later they joined the rest of the Army under the command of General Canby. On March 26 General Canby arrives at Spanish Fort and begins the investment of the Confederate works. On March 30, 1865 Veatch's division is withdrawn from the line of entrenchment's and is sent to Holyoke to convoy supplies to General Steele's column that is moving to Holyoke. Veatch's division is assigned the duty of holding Holyoke until General Steele arrives with reinforcements. On April 3, Veatch's Division joins Steele for an assault on Blakely. On April 9, 1865 Hawkins Division USCT, Andrews Division and Veatch's Division attack Blakely at 5:00 p.m. and soon gain possession of the enemy works. On April 12th Veatch's Division and Benton's Division of the 13th Corps marched into and took possession of Mobile, Alabama. Veatch's Division remained in Mobile until May 27, 1865 when it was moved to New Orleans.

The assault on Fort Blakely is generally recognized as the last battle of the Civil War. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse April 9th 1865.

On May 13, 1865 James Emery received a Certificate of Disability and an Honorable Discharge. A year later James Emery dies from chronic diarrhea that he contracted while in the Army. His children continued to receive his disability pension well into their adulthood. On May 22, 1865 Jordan Smith received an Honorable Discharge. He later was granted a pension for the eye problem he suffered at Yazzo City.

The 11th Illinois Infantry was then moved from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where the unit was mustered out of the service on July 14th, 1865. The men then left for Springfield where they receive final payment and final discharge.