

# Merrill's Spanish-American War Connections

by Rick Proft



Myron McCord



1896-1908 45 Star U.S. Flag



William McKinley

Shortly after America's 25<sup>th</sup> president was sworn into office on March 4, 1897, Myron Hawley McCord, the first newspaper publisher (*February 6, 1875*) and former early pioneer resident of the Village of Jenny, Wisconsin (*later named Merrill*) would write his friend and request an appointment as the Governor of the Territory of Arizona. President William McKinley would oblige McCord's request and appointed him to that position. He was confirmed, although narrowly after a prolonged conformation process with tenuous support, and was sworn in as the 13th Governor of Arizona Territory on July 29, 1897. McCord had been the governor for only a year and four months when he resigned his office on August 1, 1898 after conceiving and accepting an appointment as colonel of the newly established 1st Territorial Regimental Volunteers. This regiment was initiated with recruits from the big four territories; Arizona, New Mexico, Indian and Oklahoma. At the outset these "Rough Rider" (*skilled shooting horseman*) soldier recruits trained for two months at Fort Whipple, Arizona and subsequently completed their final training in preparation for the Spanish-American War effort at Camp Hamilton in Lexington, Kentucky. The regiment made it as far as Chickamauga, Georgia before an armistice was reached with Spain.

New Mexico Territory Governor Miguel Antonio R. Otero II recalled receiving a three-day visit from Myron McCord at his home. He remembered McCord lamenting about President McKinley's request for him to resign as Governor of Arizona and to organize a military regiment. McCord apparently experienced a great deal of angst and was reluctant for this change in assignment. Other McCord acquaintances at that time had remarked that he was enthusiastic with the new available opportunity to bolster his stature and bona fides as a military leader. Politicians always covet and showcase their military leader credentials in the promotion of their career aspirations. Apparently McCord had some military training experience during the Civil War, but was deemed too young for deployment, even though his age had reached into the 20s. Perhaps Colonel McCord's had an attitude change after becoming inspired with all of the positive publicity surrounding Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" and news received about his former hometown's display of pride, patriotism and enthusiasm regarding the formation of Merrill's Company F of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment Volunteers that arrived for training at Camp Douglas on Wednesday, June 29, 1898.



Colonel Myron McCord, 1<sup>st</sup> Territorial Regimental Volunteers. McCord sitting 1<sup>st</sup> row center in reunion photo.



It was not surprising that McKinley through his tenure, as president would reward the former prominent and influential Merrill citizen with several political patronage appointments. After all these politicians had become friends back during the 51st congressional session (March 4, 1889 to March 4, 1891) when the Merrill congressman of the 9<sup>th</sup> congressional district of Wisconsin and the congressman of the 18<sup>th</sup> district of Ohio sat next to each other on the floor of the house chamber. In that session Myron McCord was the only Wisconsin congressman to cast a vote for William McKinley for Speaker of the House, however Thomas Brackett Reed of Maine ended up with the most votes and became Speaker.

At the 11th Republican National Convention held in St. Louis on June 16th through 18th, 1896, Myron H. McCord was a delegate from Maricopa County, Arizona. Mr. McCord would garner favorable appreciation and gratitude from the convention's nominee and future president with his role in persuading the delegations of Arizona and Wisconsin to cast their unanimous combined 24 (½ votes), or 12 total delegate votes for William McKinley. On Tuesday, November 3, 1896 William McKinley won the general election with 51% of the vote, 23 to 22 states over William Jennings Bryan, 271 to 176 electoral votes.

President McKinley's administration inherited the decades old turmoil caused by Spain's policies that curtailed freedom within the noncontiguous territories claimed as their domain. A Cuban Nationalist insurrection movement had been fomenting led by Maximo Gomez. Restrictions imposed regarding personal liberty and lack of political autonomy spawned ongoing unrest and revolts by the inhabitants of the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico and Cuba. United States was most concerned with the relentless political chaos occurring with its closest neighbor to the south. The United States had extensive investment with the American owned sugar and tobacco plantations in Cuba. Manufacturers were dependent upon these agricultural commodities to produce the various consumer products that fueled the region's economy, such as the highly cherished Cuban cigars. Protection of these extensive American business investments in Cuba was a crucial concern for the United States government.

In America advocates for war against Spain were growing in numbers, including Teddy Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who would become President McKinley's successor as the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Teddy Roosevelt's (TR's) popularly and legendary war hero status was attained from his role while fighting in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, however President McKinley was a reluctant warrior and was not so eager in joining the bandwagon calls for war. After all, he had experienced first hand the carnage of war while serving four years in Civil War during many battles. He favored exhausting diplomacy first, even waiting for Pope Leo XIII's intervention and negotiation efforts in pleading for peace with the leaders of Spain.

Eventually McKinley did seriously consider war after a major Cuban revolt began January 12, 1898. The instability and sustained violence was escalating. To protect American interests, the president sent the battleship Maine to Cuba on January 24, 1898. The Maine arrived in Havana harbor the next day. On February 15, 1898 the Maine explodes in Havana harbor killing 266 of the 354 sailors that were aboard. The calls for war were now raging, even though the internal Navy report that was issued on March 17, 1898 indicated the explosion was caused by internal factors and not a Spanish mine as first suspected and published in the bold typed-faced, top-fold headlines of the major newspapers.

Merrill citizens stepped-up and answered their nation's call for service in the war effort.

Below is a brief 1898-1899 time-line synopsis of the war, including the involvement of Merrill Company F.

**March 8** United States Congress authorizes \$50 million dollars for a war fund.

**April 19** Congress passes joint resolution demanding independence for Cuba and authorizes President McKinley to declare war on Spain if it does not comply with the ultimatum.

**April 21** US begins a naval blockade to prevent Spain from supplying its war effort.

**April 23** Spain declares war on the United States and President McKinley calls for 125,000 volunteers to fight in the war. Among the first wave of volunteers called would be the 1st Volunteer Cavalry, Teddy Roosevelt's regiment.

**April 25** the United States Congress declares war on Spain and for the first time becomes a major power player on the world stage.

**April 29** Potential Merrill soldier recruits attend an informational meeting at Beards Opera House, 906 E. Main Street. Seventy-nine young men signed a volunteer roster in the event that Lincoln County would be called upon to provide a company of troops to fight in the war with Spain.

**May 25** President McKinley issues a new call for 75,000 additional troop volunteers. Adjutant General Boardman of Wisconsin requested Lincoln County, Wisconsin to furnish a military company of 109 men and officers. The

recruitment efforts were very successful despite some of the 75 early volunteers had a change of mind, however many more additional men would sign-up bringing the number to around 130.

**May 29** At Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, Lieutenant Colonel Teddy Roosevelt from the 1st Volunteer Cavalry troops boarded the Southern Pacific Railroad bound for Tampa, Florida, arriving four days later with his 1060 Rough Riders troops, 1258 horses, including TR's horse "Texas" and many mules. After spending some time in Tampa, they would load and board the steamship "Yucatan" on June 13<sup>th</sup>, destination Cuba, arriving there June 23, 1898.

**June 21** In Merrill, Captain H.W. Boyer opened a headquarters in the Willard Building (1100-1102 E. Main St.) to continue the recruitment list (on legal cap writing paper) of the volunteers. There were many summary judgement rejections of the volunteers by the "Disciples of Asclepius" (Greek God of Medicine), *a sophisticated way of saying they did not meet the minimal medical standards.* Henry W. Boyer was a former Merrill Fire/ Police Chief and Civil War Veteran with Company B of the Wisconsin 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 02/29/1864 to 09/21/1865 serving in Mobile, Alabama.

### List of the Original Volunteers for Company F

Long time Merrill residents may notice many familiar surnames contained in the list of Company F's original recruits. Many branches have been added to the family trees of these enlistees since these men answered their nation's call to service over 118 years ago. The legacies of these men are embodied in the prodigies that have remained and reside in Merrill today.

Aide, John	Denne, Fred	Kyes, Noel H.	Shafer, William F.
Allen, Harry R.	Dormeyer, R.H.	Kerrigan, Pat	Sharpless, Sam
Anderson, Axel	Drew, Sidney	Lee, Edward	Sharon, John B.
Arneburg, Sigwald C	Edwards, Roy	Love, Patrick	Shidell, Wallace
Aronson, Andrew	Emerich, George M.	Luedke, Otto	Sharkey, Claude
Bartel, Albert	Hannes, Peter	Oleson, Otto G.	Swope, John H.
Bean, Lloyd	Hamlin, Irving	Norton, Charles	Sulta, Gregor
Bebeau, Charles	Engstrom, Charles	Lundeen, Carl E.	Stack, Thomas
Bebeau, John	Gremler, F.W.	McFarland, George	Stevenson, Arthur W.
Behrens, Henry	Engstrom, John	Lytle, Arthur E.	Stevenson, Marshal
Beleck, John	Hanity, Edward	Oleson, Charles	Stone, W.H.
Bishop, Nelson	Grobawski, William	Montay, Burt W.	Storey, Arthur
Boyer, Henry W.	Erickson, Peter	Larson, Burt	Swope, Elmer
Boyer, Walter W.	Faik, William	Luck, Fred	Tarr, Jay Arthur
Bruce, Leonard J.	Filliatreau, Leonard	Ladd, Geo	Theilman, William
Bruce, Roy J.	Flynn, James	LeClarie, Richard	Thorson, Charles A.
Bunde, Fred C.W.	Ferrick, John	Lincoln, Charles	Thorson, John
Burdette, Gregory	Friese, Jacob	Lupke, August	Tierney, John
Burns, William	Gates, Burr J.	Matson, John L.	Tinny, Jeremiah
Button, Samuel	Glander, Fred	McCarthy, Henry	Townsend, Ray
Byre, Charles J.	Gleason, Frank E.	McCarthy, William	Urquhart, Kenneth J.
Calder, William	Hanson, William E.	Pagel, Otto	Utle, Frank
Carl, Edward, Jr.	Helensteadter, George	Parker, Richard	Voigt, William
Cartwright, Frank	Henry, H.P.	Plautz, Otto	Welty, Art
Clapper, Charles	Hitchler, George A.	Plautz, William	Wilcox, Nathan R.
Clow, Avery E.	Hinz, Herman	Porter, Guy W.	Wilson, Peter
Colter, Gilbert A.	Hunter, C.H.	Peterson, Warrie	Wilson, R.C.
Coudar, Edward	Jensen, Alfred	Radke, Herman	Woller, Henry
Cross, Charles	Jensen, J.M.	Runge, Fred	Woolett, James J.
Cross, Morris	Kaltenborn, Hans V.	Ramel, Anton	Young, Leon
Danielson, John	Karau, Don	Salvick, I.A.	Zastrow, Frank
Dawson, R.J.	Karau, Gottlieb	Schulz, F. W.	
Dean, Charles H.	Kennedy, Ralph	Schultz, William	

**June 23** Thursday evening, Major J.D. Womer of Wausau came to Merrill and led the new recruits in their first military drill. The recruits became the targets of many smart aleck comments, which came from the young chuckling wisenheimer local sidewalk spectators that were mocking their training efforts. Headquarters for the unit was established at the Willard Building, (Courthouse block). Captain H.W. Boyer receives deployment orders, via telegram from Quartermaster General C.B. Zwietusch indicating the arranged transportation details for Company F.

**June 27** Tuesday evening at 6:30 P.M. when the choreographed simultaneous shrill whistle blasts from every factory and mill in Merrill silenced, Captain H.W. Boyer lined up his recruits to inform them of his expectations and provided some final instructions. In closing he ended with words of appreciation and encouragement. Before a large enthusiastic patriotic crowd gathered at Lincoln Hall, the Hon. H.W. Wright and Rev. J.W. Hughes each made a brief salutatory address before the audience, which was comprised of relatives, friends and loved ones who had joined in the send-off ceremony to bid farewell to the troops of Company F. The social dancing that followed was considered a huge success as evidenced by the celebratory moods on display by the large number of attendees enjoying themselves at both venues, Lincoln Hall (corner E. 1<sup>st</sup> & Scott St.) and Hassett's Hall. (1410 W. Main St.).



**June 28** Wednesday, 6:30 A.M. factory mill whistles summoned the troops together at the Company's headquarters. Captain Boyer lined up his soldiers and gave the command "Forward March". In the dreary threatening weather; Mayor H. A. Stange, Chief of Police John Godfrey, Lincoln Post G.A.R. band and German Evangelical Lutheran Church band headed the Company F march from the Willard building to the train depot. Never before had Merrill seen over half of its citizenry, estimated at 5000 or more, out and about at such an early hour in the morning cheering, waving, shouting God's speed, God bless you, good luck and safe return as the procession passed by on the way to the depot. Upon Company F's arrival at the train station the troops were greeted with eruptions of loud applause and cheers from the hordes of well wishers that were assembled everywhere; on tops of buildings, in windows, tops of box cars, standing and pushing elbow to elbow for a good view. "Impressive" describes the scene at the station with the special train cars decorated extravagantly with bunting and flags. Not a dry eye in the crowd as the boys passed through a double line of friends and loved ones that were bidding them farewell as they boarded the train while uttering a final promise to kill some Spaniards. Many friends were not content with this farewell and ran to the individual train car windows to wave one final goodbye as the train was slowing pulling out of the station at 7:30 A.M as the "Kodak" fiends were doing their work to capture one last image of the spectacle.

This patriotic send-off by the citizens of Merrill was an unprecedented scene that would never be equaled or surpassed since. All of the troop recruits with the exception of Jim Shaine made train. He was in a deep slumber resting quite comfortably in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward outbuilding until around 9:00 A.M. After Shaine realized that he had overslept and missed the train, he had the best of intentions to return to his work in the woods, that is, right after he treated his feelings of regret, dereliction of duty and disappointment with some more booze. He was arrested at 3:00 A.M. Thursday and jailed by Officer Charles F. Green. Later in the morning Chief Godfrey agreed to release him on the condition that he would leave town immediately.

The Merrill special soldier train would first make a brief stop at Wausau where only one person was seen in the vicinity of the station. The quietness and calm was a stark contrast as compared to the scene that had just been witnessed at the Merrill depot. The next train stop was at the Junction City depot where the Wisconsin Central train had just dropped off the Stevens Point Company. This company would join the Merrill Company for their trip to

Camp Douglas. *(This is the stop where Frank W. Leahy, the future editor of the St. Point Daily Journal newspaper and Hans Kaltenborn, the future world famous news broadcaster would first meet, two weeks short of exactly forty-one years later, fate would reunite these two distinguished individuals again, northeast of Merrill at Chilsen's Shack on June 14, 1939 for a trout dinner and WSAU special radio remote broadcast.)*

Will Shafer of the Merrill company went to the location of the two St. Point cars and was successful in coaxing some of the St. Pont girls from the farewell contingent in providing a good luck send-off kiss for the Merrill boys, by saying, "that's what we received in Merrill." William Burns was one the first recipients and had the audacity to quickly jump the rail cars to get in at the end of the line for seconds. The train arrived at Camp Douglas at 2 P.M. Upon arrival in camp Company F's sleeping quarter accommodations were initially assigned to crowded 9X9 tents.

### **News Reporting From Camp Douglas and Camp Shipp**

The activities of Company F were extensively documented and Merrill residents were enlightened with weekly reports from camp. The Merrill Advocate newspaper published detailed weekly articles, on Tuesdays, submitted by Hans Von Kaltenborn, a private who later promoted to sergeant. H.V. Kaltenborn also submitted articles in German to the Anzieger (Merrill's German language newspaper). After Company F's arrival at Camp Shipp in Anniston, Alabama, he submitted special correspondent articles that were published in the Milwaukee Journal. Kaltenborn's first newspaper experience was at the Merrill News with his "letters to editor" that evolved into a minor cub reporting responsibilities for gathering news briefs about the local "comings and goings." With the formation of Company F, C.N. Johnson of the Tuesday weekly paper, the Merrill Advocate hired Kaltenborn to submit weekly reports from camp about the Merrill soldiers. Thomas Locke and Frank Anderson of the Merrill News, the weekly Friday paper, hired Company F member F.W. Schulz to do the same, which resulted in some competition between these newspapers in attracting new readers and subscribers. Schulz also occasionally submitted articles to the Tomahawk newspaper. Many soldier families shared their personal letters from Camp Douglas and Camp Shipp. These letters were frequently published to supplement the Merrill Advocate and Merrill News articles written by Kaltenborn and Schulz. Merrill's Company F military training camp experiences are unquestionably the most chronicled of any unit in the history of Merrill.



**Camp Douglas – July 1898**

### **Highlights of Company F's 78 days at Camp Douglas - June 28, 1898 to September 14, 1898**

**June 30** Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment was organized into three battalions, each containing 4 companies. A partial company list is; A-Waukesha, B-Stoughton, C-Platteville D-Milwaukee, E-Milwaukee, F-Merrill, G-Milwaukee, H-Milwaukee I-St. Point, K-Washburn, L-Green Bay and M-Viroqua. Merrill Company F is part of the third battalion along with B, C and G. Camp Douglas was not sufficiently organized and logistically prepared to seamlessly manage the mass influx of recruits. The establishment of leaders, chain of command, routines, discipline, supplies and gear eventually brought acceptable order to the camp operations. During the first days in Camp Douglas recruits

were subjected to physical fitness testing and a screeching cold shower before a medical examination. Twenty-four of Company F's enlistees would not survive the culling process and returned to Merrill. H.V. Kaltenborn, a.k.a. "Spider Legs Kalty" was found to be just under weight. He aggressively filled his belly with plenty of stewed beef, beans, milk and bananas and achieved sufficient avoirdupois to qualify on the re-weigh. Daily routines included; 5:30 A.M. reveille, 5:35: A.M roll call, bunk making, police calls, mess calls 1-3, sick calls, officer calls, calisthenics, drill marches, muster roll calls, guard mounts, religious services, recreation, ballgames, track and field competitions, occasional town excursions, sunset ceremony for "retirement of the flag" and the playing of taps at 10:30 P.M. The first company drill was conducted on this day, many of the soldiers became sunburned and a late afternoon thunderstorm uprooted the rope stakes, blowing down the canvas tents and scattering the contents everywhere.

**July 1** Friday, first complete roll call of Company F's 105 men. Company elected Richard J. Dawson, 1st Lieutenant and Ray.G. Townsend, 2nd Lieutenant. The Merrill boys were dropping hints to home for some additional ingredients to supplement the skimpy and bland meal portions of their three daily squares. At 9:30 A.M., a major fire completely destroyed the bathhouse and disrupted the entire camp water supply, water is now being hauled in from town. On this same day Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt distinguished himself with acts of bravery near Santiago de Cuba, Republic of Cuba by leading his "Rough Riders" up San Juan Hill to victory.



Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt  
Group photo at Tampa, FL with "Fighting Joe" General Wheeler

**July 5** Four Milwaukee companies arrived in camp, accompanied by the governor, whose low profile was not noticed by anyone from Company F. Perhaps this report was referring to the 16<sup>th</sup>, former Governor William Hoard, since he was photographed at the camp with the Wisconsin Divisional members whom had recently participated in the Missouri rifle competition. Captain Buck was assigned to restore the damaged boiler from the recent bathhouse conflagration incident and donated a keg to reward his crew for promptly accomplishing the task.

**July 8** Friday the large building-tent quarter accommodations were downgraded to small overcrowded pup tents. This indignity was the "last-straw" for Richard Parker who deserted the company in the afternoon. Eating baked beans and sleeping on straw ticks was an affront of a magnitude way too much to bear for Arthur Story, John Sharon, Peter Hannes and August Lipke, whom together attempted to organize a rebellion against this perceived torturist treatment. The Captain addressed the company stating, "anyone who would not cheerfully put up with the little inconveniences of camp life would not make a good soldier anyway". During the muster roll the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant stated, "if you intend to report for muster on Monday step 3 spaces forward". The four aristocratic rebel kickers remained stationary to the disgust of the company. Good riddance was the consensus of the remaining company members, some of whom were actively seeking retribution in town against the four departing quitters for dishonoring their company.

**July 10** Many Merrill folks visited Camp Douglas. For sometime the boys had been distressed and tormented with thoughts of the likelihood of not being attired in the regulation uniform regalia before the visitor's arrival. Being seen in an impressive uniform is a necessity in meeting the highly desired expectation of receiving a reaction of admiration and adulation from the visiting Merrill ladies.

**July 11** Monday, the regiment was officially sworn in.

**July 13** Government shoes were issued and first attempt at a "Dress Parade", without rifles. One unnamed Merrill soldier assigned to guard the colonel's tent was excused due to the "airyness of his costume." Leonard Fillatreau,

youngest member of the company and eminent ladies man was assigned to be an orderly for the colonel and was told his hair did not meet regulation. Len wept a few tears anticipating the inevitable shorning of his golden locks.

**July 15** Friday, Colonel Horace M. Seaman assumed official command of the regiment and reviewed the troops in a ceremonial parade.

**July 16** Saturday morning an awakening surprise of hearing band music emanating from the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Band, which is primarily comprised of musicians from Wausau, whom had arrived very recently.

**July 17** Many hobos have wandered in the camp and received a blanket toss ejection from the campgrounds.

**July 20** Pipes exchanged for the real thing. Troops were issued Springfield 84-Pattern 45 caliber rifles and bayonets.

**July 21** Company F received a check in the amount of \$23.65 from the hometown folks. Merrill Police Chief John Godfrey and Billy Nelson organized a softball game at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> where a hat was passed around to collect donations for the troops. The captain announced that this donation would be used to purchase eatables such as; onions, cheese, ham and eggs. It was welcomed news that elicited 3 cheers for the “fats and leans” from the hungry men.

**July 27** Joseph Meurer, soldier of Green Bay Company L died from spinal meningitis and the troops witnessed their first military funeral.

**August 6** At last, the uniform trousers were finally received and issued.

**August 17** 1st payday, monthly compensation for one day of June and the entire month of July. The 1407 men of Camp Douglas were very happy to see the paymaster distribute their allotment of the \$24K payroll. Payments were: Pvt. \$16.12, Cpl, \$18.60, \$22.32 Sgt., \$31.00 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., \$120.56 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., \$137.78 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and \$155 Cpt. The town merchants did a brisk business. The always-busy saloons were even busier than usual.

**August 19** Gustav Grams soldier of Milwaukee Company G was the 2<sup>nd</sup> soldier to die in camp, death occurred during an operation for appendicitis. The regiment has received definitive deployment orders for Camp Shipp.

**August 22** A mock battle between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> battalions took place, practiced a scenario using tactics to penetrate and flank the intrenchments to overtake the 400 foot high bluff (Castle Rock) during a very hot and muggy day.

**August 27** First military wedding took place. The band played Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March”. Everyone is attired in uniform, including the chaplain.

**August 29** Troops informed to expect a two-week long march to Kilbourn City (Wisconsin Dells) on Wednesday.

**August 31** At 9 A.M. began an 8 mile march to New Lisbon, arriving 11:30 A.M., while carrying sixty pounds of gear. Unbearably hot and muggy walking on a dirt road covered with 8 inches of dust, reached Mauston at 8 P.M.

**September 1**, Broke camp at 2 P.M. for Lyndon (final destination), arrived at 9:30 P.M.

**September 2** Began the return trip, departed and arrived in Mauston at 3 P.M. Some of the foot-blistered boys were unable to complete the final leg of the march and returned to camp by rail.

**September 5** Captain Ward Boyer’s resignation officially accepted. He plans on opening a restaurant in Anniston.

**September 7** Regiment received their 2<sup>nd</sup> payday.

### **Leaving Camp Douglas for Camp Shipp**

**September 14** Wednesday, 2:45 P.M. Company F departed Camp Douglas for Camp Shipp in Anniston, Alabama. The sendoff was fretted with many tears and cheers as was experienced in Merrill on June 28<sup>th</sup>, however these public expressions of emotions were distinguished by their causes. The cheers came from the local mother’s happiness in finally be relieved from their constant three month long vigilance over their daughter’s heightened risk for potential carnal activity. The tears came from the local saloonkeepers witnessing the disappearance of a lucrative source of their income, perhaps forever, as the train pulled out of the station. The Camp Douglas to Madison train route segment of the trip was very scenic with views of the high cliffs that surrounded Devil’s Lake and vistas of Lake’s Mendota and Monona while the train was making its way to the Madison station located near the state capitol. After some coffee and supper, it was on to Janesville, then arriving in the suburbs of Chicago by 10 P.M and reaching the Chicago-Alton depot at 11:30 P.M.



Camp Douglas Train Platform Wednesday, September 14, 1898, 2:45 P.M.  
 Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers boarding train for Camp Shipp in Anniston, Alabama.  
 "Jessie's Castle Rock" in the background.

**September 15** Thursday, most of the troops awakened at sunrise around 6:00 A.M. while the train was on the Illinois prairie. The train continued through the cornfield country on the way to the Springfield stop, where a view of another state capitol building could be seen. Then on to East St. Louis, St. Louis eventually reaching Cairo, Illinois at 9:30 P.M. where most of the northern boys had a first time experience seeing and interacting with persons of a race whose societal status was a major factor in causing America's Civil War, which had just ended 33 years ago. Crossing the Ohio River near the confluence with the Mississippi would require a train ferry boat. This ferry had a limit of six rail cars and would dramatically slow down the progress of the trip.

**September 16** Friday 1 A.M. last train car ferried across. The train then traveled through portions of Kentucky and Tennessee. Sunrise would greet everyone with a view of the sugar cane and cotton fields of Mississippi and the site of the Battle of Corinth. At the Columbus stop the troops marched to a place in town where everyone could get a drink and get cleaned up. Southeast to Maplesville. Left at 6:30 and traveled northeast for 100 miles to Anniston.



**Highlights of Company F's 164 days at Camp Shipp – September 17, 1898 to February 28, 1899**

**September 17** Saturday 12:45 A.M. arrived in Anniston, Alabama and everyone remained in the train cars until daylight. Camp Shipp was established near Anniston, Alabama which is located in the Choccolocco Foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. It was selected for its strategic location and proximity to a north-south railroad line that connected to Mobile, Alabama, where a seaport could launch troop carriers to fight in Cuba. It became a permanent military training post named Fort McClellan during both world wars and was later by utilized by the Chemical Corp. as a training base until its closure in 1999.



CAMP SHIPP - Choccolocco Foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. "Blue Mountain Peak".

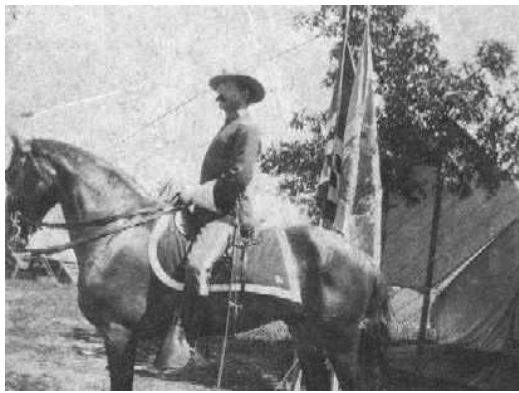


Secretary of War  
Russell A. Alger



Company F Soldiers with Rifles & Bed Rolls  
Swamp Practice Drill with Lt. Dawson

**September 24** The 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment was reviewed by the Secretary of War Russell Alexander Alger. He pronounced the 4<sup>th</sup> as the best volunteer regiment he has ever seen. Lieutenant Dick Dawson had drilled the regiment one last time before his promotion as Captain. Gilbert Calder of 1407 W. Main St. writes his brother, sister and father, (future Merrill Police Chief) Tom Calder informing them about the review before Secretary Agar.



**Top Photo:**  
Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment's Officer  
Corp. mounted in review.

**Left Photo:**  
Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Colonel  
Hoarse Seaman mounted on his  
horse reviewing his regiment.

**September 29** At breakfast a covert launching of a potato struck a person in the ear, which quickly prompted retaliation by the victim against a person that he had suspected as being the culprit. The wild swinging right hands of these two prominent six-foot combatants had only managed to cut the air for a minute or so before they were separated. Fred Denne resigned from his long held position as company cook and was replaced by Frank Utley who is rapidly cooking his way into everyone's hearts with his new menu of "chuck items", especially with his bread pudding.

**September 30** Many Negro women show up at the camp daily and solicit laundry jobs from the troops. There have been many problems with shirts not reappearing. It is almost impossible to remember any distinguishing facial characteristics to positively identify the person responsible for the garment thievery. The perpetrator could still be coming to camp. Spiders, scorpions, lizards, chameleons and every kind of insect and reptiles flourish around the camp. Retired Captain Boyer opened a restaurant near the camp. It is popular with the boys and he is doing a good business. With 50 saloonkeepers competing for the soldier's business in Anniston, a Klondike region windfall will be unlikely for any one establishment to achieve, with a ratio of one saloon per company.



Colonel Hoarse Seaman



Changing of the Guard Sentinel

**October 2** The regular Sunday regiment service was not very well attended. On Sunday Anniston is very dry. The inhabitants of this very church going community strictly enforce the no alcohol ordinance. Even at the downtown drug stores the only tonic served at the soda fountain is Koka-cola, then only to those afflicted with a headache. A very strong breeze all day and into Monday morning blew down a few tents. Frank Gremler's Monday a "A Letter from Frank" published in the Tribune received considerable discussion. Candles are in short supply for lighting.

**October 5** Wednesday Sgt. Kaltenborn is ill and is dictating this week's column to Len Filiatreau. Richard J. Dawson was officially commissioned Captain and all the boys celebrated. The Company unanimously favored his promotion and will unconditionally stand by him. Captain Dawson announced to the company that tomorrow would mark the 28<sup>th</sup> milestone of his life and a half-barrel of beer would be on tap that evening. The beer arrived in time and it was with great alacrity that the call, "Company F. fall in to beer", was responded to. The regiment is to be paid next Monday. This day is highly anticipated, since it would be difficult to find five men left in the company who are not broke. Cook Utley has been sick several days and Corporal Peterson is replacing him.

**October 11** In Merrill the play "Jerry the Tramp" was performed and net proceeds benefit of \$19.30 for Company F.

**October 14** The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment easily won the "Field Day Sports" competition. In town a scrape took place at a house of ill fame where a sergeant was killed and two others from the Second Infantry were wounded. Also a member from the Tennessee regiment was wounded. The trouble arose when the provost guards of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Volunteers attempted to forcibly clear the house, which resulted in the melee and intensified the heretofore-ongoing bad blood and enmity between these regiments.

**October 15** After numerous delays the 4th regiment finally got paid for last month in new currency, being among one of the last regiments compensated. Other regiments were paid earlier in the week. It is predicted "ther'll be a hot time in the old tonight". The unleashing of a \$200,000 payroll has a tendency to liven up trade in town and reduce the number of citizen complaints about the rowdiness of the soldiers. Monday forenoon all tents were taken down and the floors were raised to permit circulation of air under them. Efforts are being made to ensure good sanitation to preserve the healthfulness of the troops. Last week the two companies were furnished with sour bread. It caused 20 men to report for "sick call" in the morning. Wholesome bread has been furnished since. A repertoire company has set-up next to camp for a weeklong engagement. All the performances played to a crowded house. Otto Miller was studying hard for his hour-long oral Lieutenant examination, which he passed with flying colors. In devising ways to add to the bill of fare without expending any money, there is one less feral hog of the many that have been seen wandering around in the neighborhood of the camp. Company F enjoyed fresh pork for dinner. The joyousness of the occasion was marred when Cook Utley in his haste to carve the animal let slip of the knife and cut quite a gash in his thumb. Fred Denne has acted as cook since. Thursday morning Captain Dawson experienced chills and a slight attack of fever. He made it through Thursday and Friday, but was taken to the hospital. Charles Lincoln is in the hospital with some kind of lung problem. It has been cold in the evenings and the issuing of an extra blanket per man is very welcomed. Kaltenborn attended a Negro church last Sunday in the suburbs and described in detail the excitement and exuberance surrounding the euphoric revival sermon.



General "Fighting Joe" Wheeler



4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Color Guard

**October 22** General "Fighting Joe" Wheeler's visited the camp. (*This famous Confederate General and West Point graduate is one of the few confederate soldiers to be buried in Arlington Cemetery*). The tour inspection of various

companies reached “F Street” just before noon. There were four generals, two colonels and other high dignitaries. When Colonel Seaman told General Wheeler that Company F was principally made up of lumberjacks, it was met with the General’s approving smile. General Wheeler also complimented the “U.S. Shield”, which is made of whitewashed stones laid out on the ground and adorns Company F’s street entrance to the campgrounds. The General remarked, “It is a very fine piece of work”. Sgt. Kaltenborn was fortunate to snap a good picture of General Wheeler, which will most likely be his last campaign. Otto Miller was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.. Captain Dawson who was not feeling well during the week before, somehow managed to hold up, now is quite seriously ill and has been absent the entire week with typhoid fever. Charles Lincoln and Charles Lake are also afflicted with milder cases of the dreaded disease. There are approximately fifteen active cases in the regiment. H.V. Kaltenborn is writing his column from Hotel Wilmer in Anniston, to be completed in time for the 7:30 P.M. mail train north. This is same hotel where Capt. Dawson is convalescing. The Military War Board made an early morning inspection of Camp Shipp and would tour other southern camps later. Last Sunday many men left, on leave, for a pleasure excursion to the Birmingham, Alabama Fair. On the return trip there was trouble. The over indulgence in the cup of cheer by some of the Kentuckians and Tennessee troops stirred up their fighting blood and meanness in looking for an opportunity to “ca’ve a ni\*\*ah”. There were some minor scraps and gunfire, but serious trouble was averted with the unloading of the Negro regiment first. Captain Boyer is doing a good business and is pleased with his venture. A candle tipped over and caused a tent fire seriously burning the hands of Jack Tierney and one sole of Otto Miller’s foot.

#### **Captain Dick Dead - Typhoid Fever Epidemic – Officer Election - Company F Has 4 Members Arrested**

**October 29,** 5.AM Captain Richard Dawson, Merrill Company F died of pneumonia and typhoid fever at Hotel Wilmer in Anniston, Alabama. Funeral and burial will be conducted in Tomahawk. A grief stricken Company F is deeply affected with profound sadness by Captain Dawson’s passing. He was a very well liked leader and was respected by everyone. (See February 2. 1899 Lincoln County Court Dawson tribute below).

**October 30** Sunday, last honors were accorded “Captain Dick”. His remains were escorted from the funeral home to the depot by a full compliment of troops from the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, with Company F acting as honorary escorts, the only company carrying arms. “Present Arms” command was given as the coffin was being carried to and from the hearse. Company F was to fire three volleys in honor as a parting salute, but for some explained reason the ammunition was unobtainable. At the depot Major T.K.Birkhauser of the 3rd battalion “blew taps”, the “soldier’s good-night”. As the coffin was borne to the train it dawned on the tearful men that their captain has passed from their sight forever. In the afternoon the chaplain conducted a brief memorial service and in a few words drew an eloquent lesson from the life of him who passed away.

**October 31** Monday Sgt. W.H Dignum of St. Point Company I died of typhoid fever at Division Hospital, many members of the regiment attended his funeral. Also Merrill Company F members Leonard Fillatreau, Charles Lake, Charles Lincoln and Warrie Peterson are seriously ill with typhoid fever.

**November 2** An election was held to replace Captain Dawson’s vacancy. Lt. Miller had the most votes however army regulation prevents 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants getting promoted over 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants. The Company’s wish was disregarded and R.G. Townsend was commissioned Captain and O.A. Miller 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and K.J. Urquhart 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Otto Miller



Commanding Officer’s Quarters



2nd Lt. Kenneth J. Urquhart

**November 4** Four members of Company F, Henry Behrens, William Voight, Peter Wilson and Leon Jung were arrested after an alleged incident of insubordination, while being assigned to a land clearing and grubbing detail, which comprised of approximately 30 soldiers. On Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, during a hot muggy day, someone

instigated a work slowdown. When the Lieutenant Colonel issued an order to “get busy, or I’ll take an ax after you” it elicited laughter from the entire group, who misjudged the tenor and tone of his extreme remark thinking that he was joking. The Lieutenant Colonel immediately told the group they were under arrest. As the guards were arriving many of the soldiers scrambled and managed to avoid any consequence. Unfortunately for those few troops who chose not to flee were marched to confinement in the guardhouse where they were “made an example of”. A court martial was conducted and the maximum punishment of dishonorable discharge with loss of all pay and all allowances was imposed.



Camp Shipp Guard House

**November 5** Everett Barnhardt of Waupaca, St. Point Company I died of typhoid fever at Division Hospital. Overcoats were finally issued. Everyone had to endure two very cold nights with no provisions for heating. Sickness and death is increasingly becoming commonplace. There are currently three men from Company F in the division hospital; Peterson, Lake and Filiatreau, with Lake in the convalescent ward. Company Clerk Fred Shulz of Tomahawk was sent to Regimental Hospital suffering from typhoid malaria. At last, a centrally located stove shed is now installed for a set of three tents to encompass, hopefully these heat sources will reduce the number of colds.

**November 9** Wednesday morning V.T. Pasternaski of St. Point Company I died of typhoid fever at Division Hospital. Warrie Peterson of this Company is very low at noon and the chief hospital steward in charge does not expect him to live another twenty-four hours.

**November 12** Saturday Private Eddie Reineman of Milwaukee Company D died at Division Hospital.

**November 15** Warren Peterson of Company F died in Division Hospital of typhoid fever and pneumonia. He became the second death for Company F. Company F escorted his body to the train station Thursday. Private Peterson was very well liked. He was a woodsman from Phillips where his parents reside. Frank Tiffany of Waukesha Company A died 11:00 A.M. at Division Hospital. State of Wisconsin law does not permit the remains of typhoid fever victims to enter Wisconsin unless they are in a very expensive government purchased hermetically sealed coffin that can not be opened. There are many lawless characters among the enlisted men of the southern regiments. Many cases of hack-drivers (*carriage taxi*) getting held-up. A Tennessee soldier got shot in the leg during a robbery attempt.

**November 19** Disappointment when Company F was the last company to be paid and the colored paymaster ran out of coin but news was received he should return before midnight tonight. R.C. Wilson was the last of 8000 soldiers to be paid this month.

**November 22** Colonel Seaman ordered a celebration of beer, bonfires and band music for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term re-election victory of the 19th Governor, Edward Schofield over Hiram W. Sawyer. The manning of essential posts meant some men were unable to partake in the festivities. These deprived soldiers could not conceal their disconsolate facial expressions while mournfully reflecting on the missed opportunity for a taste of the free election beer.

In the previous 1896 gubernatorial contest, Governor Schofield's closest competitor in a five-way race was Willis C. Silverthorn of Wausau. W.C. Silverthorn was a very prominent distinguished politician from Marathon County who had strong Merrill ties while being a judge for the Sixteenth Circuit serving Lincoln County, at the time the court paid a tribute to Company F's Captain Richard Dawson, and four years later when the new courthouse was dedicated on Wednesday, September 23, 1903 at 9:30 A.M. Hiram Wilson Sawyer was the former Mayor of the City of Hartford and a Washington County judge.



Gov. Schofield



Col. Seaman



W.C. Silverthorn



H.W. Sawyer



**4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment Band from Wausau**

Drum Major-Joe Steveus | Chief Musician-Cornetist Clive Cone  
 Clarinets-Eb O.Bandelin, Bb T. Ryan, J. Felski, A. Koepke, H. Meade, L. Beard | Cornetists-W. Demroe, F. Cole, E. Heinrich, I. Harris | Alto Horn-O.Engelman, L. Peyrusse, J. Reichert, F. Clinton | Baritone Horn-J. Morey | Trombone-R. Roeder, A. Bauer, G. Reineking | Bass- Bb H. Smith, Eb G. Farnham, H. Corcord | Snare Drum-A. Runkel | Bass Drum-L. Closuit | Cymbal-T. Billmeyer



Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Band – Camp Shipp



Newsboy at Camp Shipp



Captain T. F. Neville  
 1st Lieutenant - Company G - J. William Brown  
 2nd Lieutenant - Company G - P. Patrick Kiely  
 Captain - Company F - H. Ward Boyer  
 1st Lieutenant - Company F - R. John Dawson  
 2nd Lieutenant - Company F - R. George Townsend

Captain - Company B - C. Jonathon Rollis  
 1st Lieutenant - Company B - R. Berry Wood  
 2nd Lieutenant - Company B - A. Barnes Moses  
 Captain - Company C - E. Eugene Burns  
 1st Lieutenant - Company C - L. Ambrose Dodd  
 2nd Lieutenant - Company C - R. De Forest Blanchard



**Officers of the Wisconsin 4th Regiment, 3rd Battalion at Camp Douglas**

Birkhauser, Neville, Brown, Kiely, Boyer, Dawson, Townsend, Rollis, Wood, Moses, Burns, Dodd and Blanchard  
(Names in no particular order.)



Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers Standing in Parade Revue at Camp Shipp





Major Theodore K. Birkhauser



Camp Douglas - Castle Jessie

**November 20** Sunday, many of the men went to witness a “hot air balloon” ascension from an old campsite. Monday the colored black paymaster arrived, as promised last Saturday, this time with a sufficient supply of currency to distribute to the satisfaction of all concerned, who are now able to make up for lost time in enjoying a hot time in the old town. Old campgrounds are being cleared for the construction of new buildings. Target practice will commence soon. The “Grubbing Details”, believed to be a primary source of illness, and a detested part of the soldier’s existence will be discontinued. The surgeons rightfully believe that this measure is required to improve the health of the regiment. Perhaps if this was done earlier most of the illness and death could have been avoided. It may have also spared four good men of Company F from being condemned to guardhouse with a dishonorable discharge.

#### **Thanksgiving – Food Box from Home - Race Riots in Anniston are Deadly**

**November 23** Wednesday evening was very cold and the chill continued into Thanksgiving morning. To our disappointment the highly anticipated Thanksgiving food parcel from Merrill had not arrived yet, however our good friend Len Heilman’s prior untapped generous contribution to Company F was utilized to aid in purchasing a turkey, dressing, potatoes, celery and cranberry sauce for a magnificent unforgettable Thanksgiving fare. The Thanksgiving box from Merrill arrived late in the evening and will be opened tomorrow. The unpacking of the box Friday morning revealed chickens, jellies, cakes and delicacies galore. The boys wish to extend their hearty thanks to the people of Merrill who so kindly remembered us and to assure them that our box was highly appreciated.

**November 24** Thursday evening there was a hot time in Anniston. An earlier late afternoon ruckus occurred when a number of white soldiers perpetrated an unprovoked attack upon a colored soldier in an Anniston saloon. He was beaten quite badly. This kindled the flames of the ongoing race wars between the southern white and colored regiments. Later in the evening shots were fired between groups of white and colored soldiers. A Tennessee provost guard was ordered to the scene and fired shots into a crowd of Negroes. They returned fire and drove the guard back. News of the encounter quickly spread throughout the city. Soon white and colored soldiers were lying in ambush for each other in all parts of the city. At about 8:30 P.M. a general alarm was sounded. Generals’ Frank and Colby ordered out part of the Tennessee, Arkansas and Wisconsin regiments. Part of Company F is now under arms and on the way to town doing double time. Once in town the Wisconsin companies were given an order to deploy skirmish lines and round up all colored soldiers and all colored civilians armed with weapons. Sixteen soldiers of

Company F came across some colored soldiers holed up inside, at the rear of a Negro church preparing for a fight, however when they learned they were being confronted by Wisconsin soldiers they gave themselves up and were cooperative. They were searched for weapons and marched to the General. He ordered them to return to camp at once. These colored soldiers had only walked but a few yards before getting shot at by several members of the Tennessee regiment. Under the protection of the Wisconsin regiment they were escorted back to the General. The General and his staff then personally escorted the group back to camp. A strong patrol presence continued in the city. Things calmed down later after everyone was ordered back to camp. There were a number of fatalities among the colored soldiers and civilians as well as Tennessee and Arkansas soldiers were wounded. Fortunately no soldier from the Wisconsin regiment was shot or wounded.

**November 27** Sunday night some mean, contemptible scoundrels out of the Tennessee, Arkansas or Kentucky Company encamped here fired a volley into the camp of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Negro regiment. It is believed several were killed and injured. It was claimed the rounds were not intentional and that it was "shots went wild". As a consequence it is expected the riots of last week will be continued. The men of our regiment were told to "hold them themselves in readiness". Readiness drills were conducted and the entire regiment was formed in a record time of 2-¼ minutes. Monday passes to town are now limited to a maximum of five per company. There is a popular burlesque show playing in town, which is yielding a high number of pass request applicants, one can only imagine the intensive lobbying the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant was encountering during the process of selecting the coveted five passes.

**December 4** For the first time in 3 months Company F has a full complement of officers, commissions arrived last Thursday evening. It is expected that riots of last week will be repeated. The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment was told to hold in a readiness condition. Readiness drills conducted.

**December 10** The Treaty of Paris was signed by the United States Secretary of State John Hay. (*John Hay was a former Lincoln administration secretary and well-known statesman. Hay is often quoted in regards to ruminative discussions about the Spanish-American War, saying, "It was America's Splendid Little War"*). In reference to the November 4<sup>th</sup> land clearing detail incident, the four recently discharged members who forfeited their pay and allowances received \$67.75 from the generosity of their former comrades, enough to purchase them train fares back home. These four men had received considerable sympathy and empathy from the others, knowing the luck of the draw had spared them from that assignment and the extremely unfair and harsh consequences that resulted, "there but for the grace of God go I".

**December 13** Leonard Fillatreau the youngest member of the Company F was granted a 30 day medical furlough and made it as far as Centraillia (*near Port Edwards*) to the home of his Uncle Frank Dudley, where he intended to make a brief visit with his relatives when his typhoid malady worsened. His mother, Mrs. Ellen Fillatreau and Mrs. George Boyer have been at his bedside since last Wednesday. A later report indicated that his condition has improved enough to be able to take a train back home to Merrill.

**December 21** Wednesday payday. Anniston merchants are doing a brisk business after payday. Fireworks and firecrackers are selling like hot cakes. Sgt. Burns returned to camp after a weeklong stay in the regiment hospital for a bad attack of rheumatism. Over 100 hundred of the men left camp and returned home on Christmas furloughs. The round trip back home for Christmas costs around three-month's pay, but it is considered well worth the expense.

**January 7, 1899** Merrill's Company F soldiers returning back to camp from their Christmas furloughs home. Sgt. Kaltenborn had made a trip to St. Louis and wrote about his tour of the Anheuser-Busch brewery.

**January 10** Kaltenborn promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. January 14. Captain Boyer is out of restaurant business. Corporal Emerich is in the hospital with a swollen ankle.

**January 13** On a very dark and cloudy Friday morning Company F participated in distant target practice at a range of 200 yards. 50 & 100 yards previously practiced. Corp. J.H. Swope made the best score with 39 out of 50. Lt. Miller returned from his furlough and reports enjoying his time with family and friends in Merrill and Tomahawk.

**January 14** Members from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Arkansas Regiment have established crap tables and other gambling games.

**January 21** Weather is warm enough for outside washing. Poker games were in progress in the open air of Company F's street yesterday. A "blind pig" (*slang: illicit establishment that sells alcoholic beverages*), with a plentiful supply of corn juice last Sunday was run out of the boy's shack of Milwaukee Company G. It was a day of general hilarity and over exuberance of spirits on Company F Street. It also was a factor for the "rough housing" and ransacking of the mess tent during dinner. This five-minute "rough housing", also known as "the duty to lick the everlasting daylight out of everybody," had only previously been reserved for entertaining visitors from other tents. After the sparring matches some of boys resembled the southern girls with their newly acquired beautiful, lustrous black eyes. Corp. Emerich will have his foot operated on this week.

**January 27** Private Charles Mark of Stoughton Company B died of pneumonia.

**January 29** Sgt. Wilson has made up his mind to go to Cuba with the Engineering Corp. Sgt. Kaltenborn is thinking about joining him. The Merrill boys will receive a travel allowance computed as follows; equivalent of one-day pay, for each 20 miles traveled. This amount would equal \$33 for the approximate 1300-mile return trip back to Merrill.

**February 2** Company F received tentative muster out orders, with discharge papers to be issued on February 28. Corp. Bunde and Pvt. King have received transfer orders and will start with the Engineering Corp, next week.

**February 5** A downtown photographer is in camp taking pictures of the officers. Around 20 Kodak fiends took advantage of getting a shot at the “push” (believed to be in reference to “Spider Legs Kalty” getting being blanket launched into mid-air in the photo below)”.



1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Hans Von Kaltenborn, Age 20-1/2



“Spider Legs Kalty” in mid-air during blanket push.



Anniston, Alabama – Union Station



Camp Shipp – Anniston, Alabama  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Hans Von Kaltenborn is the 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left

**February 5** Kaltenborn completed his 29<sup>th</sup> camp report since June 28th and projects the 36<sup>th</sup> will be the grand finale of his warrior career. Company F is the last regiment to be truly mustered out and this time it feels like it is actually going to happen and not just the familiar scuttlebutt that was often heard so many times before. Although we will actually believe it when the discharge papers are in hand. On February 2, Thursday morning we received news about payday and it was timely, coming the very next day providing the wherewithal for an opportunity to celebrate. Trip home train fares will equal \$17.40, \$10.40 Anniston to Chicago and \$7 Chicago to Merrill. Train Company competition could possibly drive down that cost prior to leaving. The south's rainy season continues. March and April always has the best weather according to the locals. "Home Sweet Home" is the popular tune requested by the squeaky fiddle and wheezy accordion. Some of the Anniston young lady acquaintances of the 4<sup>th</sup> regiment are showing signs of long faces. It is rumored that there are three separate instances where a residence change by the ladies to Wisconsin may occur. The Wisconsin boys have always been the favorites of the local girls. It is speculated that the dark-eyed Tennessee lads might do equally as well in Wisconsin. As the soldier careers are coming to end, so is the siege of measles, which is currently afflicting only Patrick Kerrigan and Frank Gleason of Merrill Company F.

**February 7** A 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. is in camp from the Engineering Corp. seeking transfer volunteers for a Cuba deployment.

**February 11** George McFarland is the only person still out with the measles. Monday and Tuesday was the Mardi Gras festival celebration in Birmingham, Alabama. Any officer of the regiment desiring to go will be granted leave.

Last year's celebration was said to be equal to or surpassed New Orleans. Col. Colson and Lt. Scott of the Kentucky regiment are having a very warm dispute. The lieutenant is requesting charges against the colonel for being drunk and inciting the "Raising of Cain" in Anniston. (*Another chapter to this story the following day*). February 12, early morning Sgt. H.V. Kaltenborn reports, "Just before its final windup this tin-solider career of ours appears to be growing really interesting. To be roused from the land of dreams at 4 A.M., dress hurriedly, swallow a few mouthfuls of breakfast, have ten rounds of good solid ammunition dished out to you and to be ready for duty of any kind within a half hour." Closest experience to real soldiering yet. Assistant Cook Gottlieb Karau, said, "to hell mit de cooking", got his gun and fell into the ranks with the rest.

**February 12** Frank L. Weaver of Stoughton Company B died at Division Hospital.

### **Company F Called to Arms**

**February 12** Kentucky regiment begins to musters out. February 11th at 11 P.M. at an Anniston restaurant, two prominent Kentucky republican officer's long time antipathies violently escalated into a fight and gunfire. Lt. Edward Scott, nephew of Governor Bradley shot 11<sup>th</sup> District ex-congressman Colonel D.G. Colson through his lung and he may die. However the bullet did not thwart the fight left in Colson who returned errant fire and resisted the restraining efforts by Provost Lieutenant's McKay and Phelps. Scott had already surrendered and yielded his pistol. McKay and Phelps were also charged, since they struck and beat the Colonel, perhaps excessively with a butt of a gun during their apprehension efforts. Lt. Scott's court martial history of charges for "forgery of an enlisted mans pass" and "alleged drunkenness" was likely the primary factor for the antagonisms between the two ranking officers. Having sworn vengeance and due to the ongoing threats this incident caused between the divergent loyalties of the feuding factions of the various Kentucky companies that were in the process of being discharged, it was feared that violence might erupt again in town. With peace well in hand with regards to the war, Wisconsin's 4<sup>th</sup> Company A of Waukesha and Company F of Merrill finally would have an opportunity for everyone in the company to see some action. Orders were received to march through the two inches of snow into the city to be on hand as a presence and to quell any disturbance that might occur. These peacekeeping units were quartered in the courtroom of the Anniston City Hall. They will remain in town until all of the Kentucky companies leave town.

**February 13** Between 3 P.M. and 4 P.M all of the remaining Kentucky companies have left the city. It was determined that there is no longer a potential for danger and Company's A and F were ordered back to camp without seeing any action. The eight Kentucky companies that had been rumored to "paint the town" must have received the word that there were two companies with loaded "Springfields" on hand to deal with any problems they may cause. The community of Anniston and remaining 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Companies were very happy to see these disgraceful, low intelligent Kentucky trouble-making extreme racists leave town.

**February 14** William Zugg of Stoughton Company B died at Division Hospital.

**February 13** Monday the morning thermometer in Anniston reached 15 below, which is a record unrivalled in over thirty years, according to the oldest inhabitant. There was little comfort to be taken in the rather-flimsy shacks provided by the "Uncle", through which what the "wind bloweth, where it listeth". We are getting inured to hardships it seems, for fortunately, no one woke up to find himself frozen to death. The skating was good on Oxford Lake the next day and the whole town turned out to watch the dozen or so skaters. No skates are sold in town and the skaters were likely to be residents that had relocated from the north.

**February 18** Company F is in the mustering out process. All the equipment and gear is being turned in. Soldiers are given one last medical exam and the surgeon notes any physical defects that have resulted while in service, as to avoid the potential for frivolous disability claims against the government in the future. We now have turned in our pup tents, canteens, haversacks, guns, belts and bayonets. Blankets and pouches are retained but are charged up against the individual clothing account. Guards are now walking their beat with only sticks as weapons. Lt. Miller is becoming an ardent Kodak fiend and does a fine job at his own photo finishing. Corporal Emerich's swollen ankle condition has taken a turn for the better and he will attempt to walk with the aid of crutches tomorrow. Sgt. Burns, a frequent visitor to the regiment, although still quartered at the Regiment Hospital has recovered sufficiently to be dangerous to all of the pretty nurses and that might be partly responsible for his lengthy stay there.

**February 23** Thursday a well attended meeting held in the council chamber of the Merrill City Hall was the first step in planning to give the boys a rousing homecoming reception next week Friday. The reception committee officials selected were M.G. Hoffman, Chairman and J.P. Anderson, Secretary. Additional committee heads are: Music and Literary - H.H. Foster, Refreshments - L.N. Anson, Reception - H.W. Wright, Decorations - Julius Thielman, Halls - Charles H. Stange and Finance - John N. Cotter. Four blasts from the Water Works whistle will identify the arrival of Company F's train, followed by the parading of the band to denote that the hour has come. John Godfrey will serve as Officer of Day being assisted by 1<sup>st</sup> Charles F. Gronke and 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Ladd.

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## February 27, 1899 – Lincoln County Court Tribute to Captain Richard J. Dawson



### Captain Dawson Dies at Hotel Wilmer

On Monday, February 27, 1899 when the Lincoln Court convened with Judge Silverthorn presiding, there were many out-of-town members of the legal profession present in the courtroom to pay their respects to a former colleague. A memorial from the Lincoln County Bar, prepared by James Leary was presented to the court. It honored the youngest, most energetic and patriotic member of the court, Richard J. Dawson who departed his life while serving his country at Anniston, Alabama 29<sup>th</sup> day, October 1898, after suffering for three-weeks from acute pneumonia coinciding with the mortal typhoid fever that followed. Miss Marguerite Nash, fiancée was present at his bedside in the Hotel Wilmer when he succumbed to the diseases at 5 A.M. A honor guard of Company F soldiers accompanied their beloved captain's remains to the funeral home and to train station for his return trip home to Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Funeral services were 8 A.M., Wednesday, November 2, 1898 with burial in the Tomahawk cemetery.

Soon after graduating from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1896 Attorney Dawson became the Democratic candidate for Lincoln County District Attorney and was elected to that position. During his two-year tenure in office he was responsible for the prosecution of the most serious crimes in the history of the circuit. They were the murder trials for State vs. McCutcheon and State vs. Voights. When the war with Spain was reaching its peak Mr. Dawson became one of the first volunteers to enlist when Lincoln County was called upon to provide a company of troops. He was commissioned as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and assisted in the formation and organization of the unit. While at Camp Shipp in Anniston, Alabama he received a promotion to Captain on October 5, 1898. He was well liked and respected by all of his soldiers.

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**February 28** The men are signing the final muster-out roll and will have again donned the garb of citizens. The train will leave later tonight. A Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul special cars presumably will attach to the regularly scheduled Number 8-way passenger train at Chicago and is expected to arrive in Merrill Friday morning at 9:18 A.M.

### Train Arrival - Friday, March 3, 1899 – Company F Homecoming Homecoming of Company F after a 8 month deployment

#### Boys receive an advance greeting at Wausau by popular Merrill girls

Mr. and Mrs. M.G. Hoffman chaperoned seven young popular Merrill ladies on a trip to the Wausau train depot. Amanda Theilman, Mayme Bell, Margaret Dunn, Helen Britt, Blanche Biron, Mollie Thielman and Nellie Oleson greeted the boys in advance and accompanied them on their final leg of the trip back home.

#### Train Enters Merrill

As the Company F train slowly entered the city it received a whistle salute from each mill and an exuberant bell-clapper-ringing ovation from every church and school house that it passed near. These familiar sights and sounds had not been experienced since their send-off on May 28<sup>th</sup>, eight months ago. Just as their train was coming to a complete stop at the station there was one loud sustained blast from the water works whistle that was initiated by the Engineer, Mr. Lyte. A huge crowd of people turned out from every part of town to greet the boys at the station.

#### Greeting at the Train Station

When the boys stepped off the train they were greeted with a tremendous out pouring of affection, literally being passed hand to mouth while making their way through the large crowd of jubilant people who were fervently welcoming them back home. The chaotic excitement during the train car disembarking made the task of gathering the troops in formation for the parade quite difficult for Lieutenant Miller and Andrew Ladd, the Parade Marshal. Not all members of the unit returned on this train. H.V. Kaltenborn remained and would explore the southern cities as Merrill Advocate's traveling correspondent. Below is the list of the Company F's men arriving on the train.

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## Wisconsin 4 Regiment Volunteers – Company F - Returning on the Train

LIEUTENANTS					SERGEANTS
Lt. 1 <sup>st</sup> O.A. Miller	Lt. 2 <sup>nd</sup> K. J. Urquhart	CORPORALS			Sgt. W.H. Stone
John Swope	H. McCarthy	Sigwald Amburg	Edward Carl	Herman Radke	Sgt. William Burns
Arthur Stevenson				George M. Emerich	
PRIVATES					
Adolph Grob	Frank Kellahar	Arthur Welty	Otto Plautz	William Shultz	
Frank Gremler	Gotlieb Karau	John Wiley	William Plautz	John Thorson	
Irving Hamlin	William. Lambert	Carl Mews	Otto Pagel	Thomas Stack	
C.H. Hunter	Charles Lincoln	Peter Mengel	Fred Runge	Henry Walter	
Herman Hinz	Anton Ramel	Otto Oleson	Fred Luck	Walter Boyer	
J.M. Jensen	John Tierny	Charles Oleson	Thomas Stack		
ARTICIFER		MUSICIANS			
Alex Webster		C.F. Bebeau	B.J. Gates		

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### Parade Line-up Formation

Chief of Police John Godfrey, Merrill's Police Force, Moore's Band, Mayor A.H. Stange with members of the Council and county officers, Merrill Fire Department, G.A.R. Veterans headed by Drum Corp, Company F, 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Civic Societies, Public School pupils, teachers and citizens on foot and in carriages.

**Parade Route** From the train depot, west on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. south on Polk St. west on 1<sup>st</sup> to Grand Ave. (5<sup>th</sup> Ward Fire Station Grand Ave. & Wright St.), west on 3<sup>rd</sup> St., then south on Cottage St. to the (Wright house corner at the bridge), left or east on W. Main St., continued on the street car line while passing by all of the ecstatic, enthusiastic, waving, cheering citizens that were watching the parade from the sidewalks in front of their patriotically decorated homes and businesses that displayed an abundance of red, white and blue along with "Old Glory. The procession continued east all the way to Berard's Opera House where a planned "Welcome Home" celebration program will commence to honor Company F in the 1000 seat hall.

### Public Reception at Berard's Opera House – G.A.R. Hall Reception - W.R.C. Dinner – Evening Party

On hand at the opera house to usher the arriving attendees were Messrs. George Curtis Jr., E.M Smart, Alvin Bryant, Emil Weise, Ernest Curtis and William Hoffman. Soon every seat and every square foot of standing room was filled. The stage and entire room was profusely decorated with Old Glory and bunting and pictures of heroes of the Cuban War. On the rostrum (raised platform) an elegant portrait of President McKinley was displayed prominently on an easel draped in red, white and blue and off to the side. The honoree members of Company F occupied the center block of reserved seating. A war chorus musical selection was sung by a quartet consisting of Mesdames H.H. Foster and J.W. Zipp and Messrs. F.R. Bolles and W.L Chandler. The Honorable W.H. Flett substituting for the Honorable Chairmen Henry W. Wright presided over the ceremony. He introduced Attorney John Van Hecke who welcomed the boy's safe return back home. He gave a simple greeting full of earnest joy. The next speaker on the dais was Attorney Martin G. Hoffman. He reiterated the welcome and talked about the splendid record made by Company F and about the cordial feelings the residents of Anniston felt toward them. Next the "Old Veteran's Quartet", under the direction of Carter J. Brazee made a stirring spectacle as they entered and grouped themselves in front of the stage to sing an appropriate song for the occasion. At the conclusion of the program Company F was escorted to the Skinner Block, G.A.R. Hall, 309 Grand Avenue by the Lincoln G.A.R. Post #131 Veterans, where they were received by friends and family prior to being feted with a dinner served and hosted by the Lincoln Corps #40 W.R.C. (*Woman's Relief Corps. is the official women's auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic*). Later in the evening a "Welcome Home" party was given at Lincoln Hall where nearly everyone from town was in attendance to participate in the joyous celebration.



### **Summary - Soldier Camaraderie and Tribute**

The men of the Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Company F military service will not be forgotten. The splendid send-off and homecoming celebrations that were accorded these fine young men was certainly a testament to the gratitude, pride and patriotism of a community supporting their citizen soldiers and country. Although Company F never saw combat against the Spaniards, it does not negate or diminish their contribution rendered in service of their country. It takes a special person with exemplary qualities who is willing to make a commitment in forgoing the safety and comforts of home to endure the unpleasantness and rigors of military life, while in harms way, being exposed to great risk of injury, disease and death. The gray-haired civil war veterans, canes and all, of G.A.R. Post #131 that came out to pay homage to their successor soldier generation know all too well of the soldier sacrifice. There have been approximately 259 veterans of the Civil War that had either resided in Jenny prior to, or in Jenny/Merrill after America's worst war a mere 33 years earlier. A few of Merrill's prominent civil war veterans are Henry W. Boyer, Dr. Lewis B. LaCount, H.W. Wright, Henry R. Allen, Miles Swope, George Langley, C.C. Townsend, Sam Gleason, Bob and James Truax V.R Willard, Phillip Zipp, etc., many of whom had resided elsewhere before relocating here. The train line to Jenny had not yet been built when Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865. There were no extravagant community send-off or welcome home celebrations for these veterans. However this time a community's spirit, gratitude, pride and patriotism that is extended in recognition of service to country that honors Company F is shared vicariously within the hearts and minds of these G.A.R. Veterans of whom are always cognizant of the innate, unbreakable special bond and mutual respect known only among those who have lived the soldier experience.

During the war America suffered 332 killed in action, not including those on the Battleship Maine, since the war was not yet officially declared when the Maine exploded and sank. The war-wounded soldiers totaled 1641. Disease would claim the lives of 2,957, a number of which includes sixteen members of Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers, two of which were Merrill Company F members, Warren Peterson and the beloved Captain Richard J. Dawson, former Merrill School Board member and Lincoln County District Attorney.

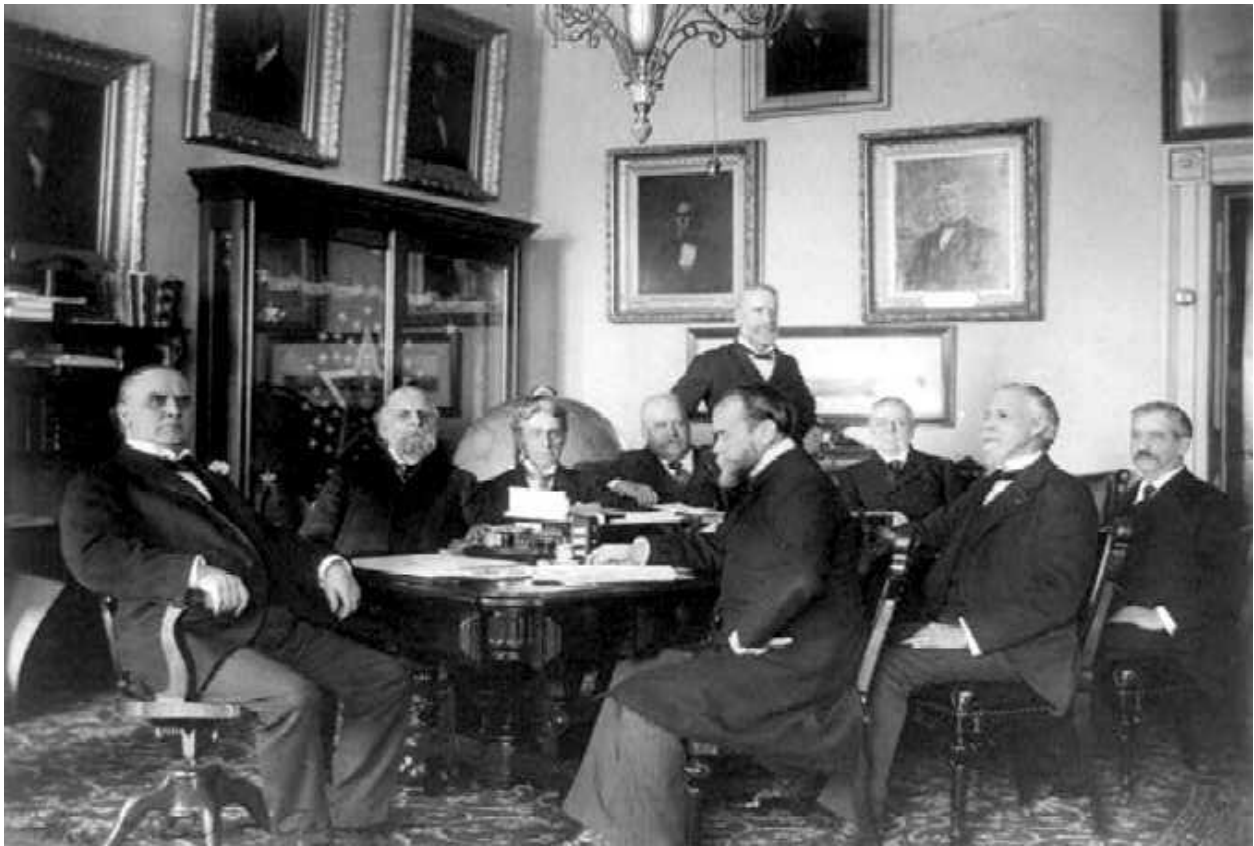
**April 11, 1899** The Treaty of Paris becomes effective. The agreed terms of this treaty stipulated that the United States would gain Guam, Puerto Rico, Philippines as territories. Some historians view these acquisitions as President McKinley's greatest accomplishment. Resolving the issue of Cuba's \$400 million national debt was a difficult dilemma and the issue was only settled by allowing Cuba to become an independent country.

### **Epilogue**

#### **President William McKinley**

In 1900 William McKinley became the first president to ride in an automobile. It was a "Stanley Steamer". On Tuesday, November 6, 1900, President William McKinley was re-elected over his former opponent, William Jennings Bryan, with 292 to 155 electoral votes, or 51.6% to 45.5%. He was inaugurated on March 4, 1901. Soon thereafter the President and First Lady would undertake a six-week rail tour of the nation. The tour was scheduled to conclude at the Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo, New York on June 13, 1901. However the First Lady became ill in California. Many of the tour stops were postponed, including the one at Buffalo, N.Y. It was rescheduled for September 6, 1901. On that date President William McKinley arrived at the Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo and attended a reception at the "Temple of Music" exhibit. While shaking the hands of the visitors there, a twenty-eight-year-old anarchist named Leon Czolgosz fired two quick shots at point-blank range, both of which struck McKinley. The President sustained two serious gunshot wounds to the abdomen. Security and bystanders immediately subdued the assassin before he was able to fire another shot from his handkerchief-covered revolver. While receiving aid for his grievous wounds, the President said, "Be careful how you tell my wife". McKinley lived for 8 days before succumbing to gangrenous necrosis of the abdomen, dying on September 14, 1901. An apparent motive for the shooting was that Czolgosz perceived there was mistreatment of the Slavic miners during the 1897 coal strike. The justice system was very prompt and after an eight-day trial Leon Czolgosz was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death on September 26, 1901. He was executed by electric chair on October 29, 1901. Myron McCord's friend, President McKinley would posthumously become the recipient of many honors. In 1917 Congress named after him the highest mountain peak in North America, (20,310 feet). On August 30, 2015 President Obama directed his Department of Interior to rescind that congressional action by restoring the name of that prominent Alaskan Mountain landmark back to Denali. The United States Mint had honored McKinley by using his portrait on the \$500 U.S. Dollar Bill. That bill denomination was taken out of circulation back in the 1960's.





#### **President McKinley's 1898 Cabinet Officials**

(seated furthest left) William McKinley

Left to right in back of table: Lyman J. Gage, John W. Griggs, John D. Long, James Wilson standing, and Cornelius N. Bliss. Left to right in front of table: John Hay, Russell A. Alger, and Charles E. Smith

#### **Theodore Roosevelt**

After the war Theodore Roosevelt was elected the 33rd Governor of New York serving January 1, 1899 to December 31, 1900. On March 4, 1901 Theodore Roosevelt became the 25th Vice President during McKinley's 2<sup>nd</sup> term. He assumed the Presidency on September 14, 1901 after McKinley died. Roosevelt won election Tuesday, November 8, 1904 against Alton B. Parker, 336 (56.4%) to 140 (37.6%) electoral votes and was inaugurated March 4, 1905 and served out his full term to March 4, 1909. During his presidency Roosevelt would appoint former Merrill resident Myron McCord to become U.S. Marshal of the Arizona Territory and later to a Collector of Customs position. Roosevelt again sought the Republican nomination for president in 1912, but William Howard Taft was re-nominated by the party. Roosevelt then established the Progressive Party, "Bull Moose Party", which held its own convention in Chicago on August 7, 1912. During a campaign stop on October 14, 1912 at 8: P.M. in front of Hotel Gilpatrick in Milwaukee (*800 block of N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., currently the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, 333 W. Kilbourn Ave.*) Roosevelt was standing in the doorway of his car and was waving goodbye with his hat just as he was in the process of being seated for the short trip to the Milwaukee Auditorium to give a "Bull Moose" 90minute campaign speech of 50 pages. That speech along with his eye glass case in his coat pocket would ultimately become a shield that would save his life. An insane 36-year-old unemployed saloonkeeper from New York named John Schrank fired a shot from 5 feet away with his Colt revolver. The bullet struck Roosevelt's fourth right rib on an upward path to his heart. The bullet traveled superiorly and medially for about 3 inches after breaking the skin, lodging in the chest wall, without entering the pleural space. (membrane lining thoracic cavity walls). The bullet became permanently lodged by his right nipple. A removal surgery was deemed way too risky to perform. This

serious gunshot wound did not deter TR from giving his speech at the Milwaukee Auditorium, however it did prompt an opening adlib line; “I don’t know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot.” as the 53 year old former president unbuttoned his vest to reveal his blood stained shirt and the large bullet holes through his manuscript. The Progressive, “Bull Moose Party” came in second place that election cycle. On Tuesday, November 5, 1912 Woodrow Wilson easily won the election with 435 (41.8%), Roosevelt 88 (27.4%) and Taft 8 (23.2%) electoral votes. Theodore Roosevelt’s legacy is renowned for being the famous brave Rough Rider, 26<sup>th</sup> U.S. President with a popular "Big Stick" diplomacy foreign policy, father of the National Park System, North Dakota Cowboy and for being immortalized with his likeness chiseled into Mount Rushmore. He died at his Oyster Bay, New York home, named “Sagamore Hill”, shortly after 4 A.M., January 6, 1919, at age 60 from an embolus lodging in his lung.

### **Myron McCord**

Chickamauga Park, which borders northern Georgia and eastern Tennessee, was the last assigned war post for Colonel McCord’s unit. The 1<sup>st</sup> Territorial Volunteers did not see any action against the Spaniards during the war and it mustered out on February 15, 1899. McCord returned back to Phoenix. On June 6, 1901 his old friend President McKinley appointed him U.S. Marshal of the Arizona Territory. After McKinley’s assassination, McCord assumed he would be re-appointed for another term, however instead, President Roosevelt appointed his old “Rough Rider” friend Benjamin Franklin Daniels. Scandal and embarrassment for Roosevelt erupted when it was revealed that Daniels had failed to disclose his past history of criminal behavior. On February 22, 1902 Roosevelt asked for Daniels resignation. On March 18, 1902 McCord was re-appointed and served as U.S. Marshal until his resignation in 1905. On Friday, June 28, 1903 McCord’s 2nd wife Sarah Etta (née Space) died in Long Beach, CA, where she had been convalescing several weeks for a heart disease ailment. After a funeral service was conducted in Phoenix on July 2, 1903, the hermetically sealed coffin of one of Jenny’s earliest pioneers made a final 2500 mile train trip back to her childhood hometown, along with her husband Myron, arriving at Merrill on Saturday, August 7, 1903, aboard the 10:06 A.M. train. On Sunday, August 8th, the dearly departed church member remains would be present, along with her spirit, for a final regular church service at the Scott Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, conducted by Rev. E.W. Mager. At the conclusion of the service many friends paid their final respects to Mrs. McCord, who had been remarkably well preserved and appeared to be quite peaceful and natural while lying in repose at the church. After visitation a burial service was conducted at Merrill Cemetery.



Myron and Sarah Etta (née Space) McCord  
M.H. McCord and his 2nd wife married August 25, 1877 in Jenny, Wisconsin

In the summer of 1904 U.S. Marshal Myron McCord attended the World’s Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. During this vacation trip, on August 10, 1904, he was married a 3<sup>rd</sup> time to Mary Emma Winslow. A wedding reception was held at the home of R.C. Winslow, brother of the bride. After spending a few weeks in St. Louis the newly weds returned to Phoenix, Arizona and resided at 1901 W. Adams Street. On June 14, 1905 McCord resigned as U.S. Marshal of the Arizona Territory. It seemed inconceivable that President Roosevelt would re-appoint Ben Daniels to succeed McCord. However, TR apparently considered that Daniels record of horse thievery and gun slinging was now atoned and his character was now acceptable for the position. On February 8, 1906, McCord was offered and accepted an appointment from President Roosevelt to become the “Collector of Customs” at Nogales, Arizona, a position he had held until his death. In the last week of February 1908 reports from Arizona were received that Myron McCord had suffered a stroke and was paralyzed. He died on April 27, 1908, at age 67, from the stroke and complications of Bright’s disease (acute nephritis). McCord’s body arrived in Merrill on Thursday, May 7, 1908. He became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Merrill luminary to lie in repose at the new courthouse rotunda, all day Friday, May 8, 1908, where a community at large could pay their final respects to one of the most influential paragon pioneers of the city. McCord’s friend, H.R. Fehland was the 1<sup>st</sup> distinguished Merrillite accorded that stately honor back on Wednesday,

January 16, 1907. Funeral services for M.H. McCord were conducted at the Methodist Episcopal Church at 2:30 o'clock on Saturday, May 9, 1908, followed by burial in Merrill Cemetery.



Lincoln County Courthouse Rotunda, Wednesday, January 16, 1907  
Andrew Milspaugh, Fire Chief - **H.R. Fehland (lying in repose)** - Thomas Calder, Police Chief  
**Merrill's 12th Mayor, State Assemblyman, County Board Chairman, President of Church Mutual**  
Myron McCord would succeed his friend H.R. Fehland in becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup> distinguished Merrill citizen bestowed the honor of lying in repose at the Lincoln County Courthouse, on Friday, May 8, 1908.

After Myron McCord's estate was probated, with the distribution of his Phoenix property to his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife Mary Emma, his 1<sup>st</sup> wife Anna Maria would challenge that decision, by claiming his 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage to Mary Emma was invalid, since their 1<sup>st</sup> marriage had not been dissolved, claiming improper notification of said divorce. First wife Anna claimed she had only been served notification intending to seek a divorce, a document that was originated from Utah, at a time while McCord was away from Jenny for a period of approximately six weeks, around the time he was a delegate at the 1876 Republican National Convention that was held in Cincinnati. The appeals by McCord's 1<sup>st</sup> Wife Anna Maria eventually landed this probate case in the Arizona State Supreme Court. On March 27, 1911 the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Defendant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wife Mary Emma, since the Plaintiff, 1<sup>st</sup> Wife Anna Maria had insufficient evidence that the 1<sup>st</sup> marriage divorce was invalid. On January 31, 1917, 1<sup>st</sup> wife Anna Maria (née Murray) died at age 72, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, at the home of her daughter Florence (Mrs. William C.) Gilbert. A funeral service was held at the former McCord Main Street, Shawano, Wisconsin home, followed by a burial in the city. On January 27, 1932, 3<sup>rd</sup> wife Mary Emma (née Winslow) died in Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Henry Ward Boyer**

H.W. Boyer was a Civil War Veteran serving with Company B of the Wisconsin 29th Infantry from February 29, 1864 to September 21, 1865 in Mobile, Alabama. He was one of the original charter members of G.A.R. Lincoln County Veteran's Post #131 when it was founded in January of 1884. Boyer's military background and wartime experience was helpful in his assigned task of being the person most responsible for the recruitment and organization of Merrill Company F. His contribution was recognized when he was immediately elected Captain after the company was formed. Captain Boyer had only intended to remain at that position until the company became sufficiently organized and operational. His resignation was officially accepted on September 5, 1898 at Camp Douglas. Retired Captain Boyer would follow the Merrill Company to Anniston, Alabama where he opened a restaurant near Camp Shipp. Boyer was a well known respected citizen and businessman of the city. He was very active in Merrill's community affairs. After Merrill became incorporated as a City on March 8, 1883, it immediately established the governmental departments and officials. At that time Boyer was appointed one of the first constables and later he would serve for five years as Fire/Police Chief of the newly incorporated city. Upon his return from Anniston in March of 1899 Boyer opened and operated a new restaurant for a few years, at the former Mrs. Squires' Millinery location, the prominent brick building on the corner of Washington and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets in Wausau. He and his family were best known as the operators of the Merrill House, Larkin Hotel (West Side Cenotaph location). Boyer served on many governmental committees. In April 1903 he was a stockbroker agent representing the Pioneer Graphite Co. of Junction City. He was also an agent for the Wisconsin Health and Accident Company and for five years District Deputy Collector of Revenue. On Friday, June 14, 1907 Captain Henry Ward Boyer, age 61 years and 8 months died at 12:30 o'clock, at his East Street Merrill home of peritonitis, caused from his impacted gallstones. Mr. Boyer was a member of the Odd Fellows Fraternity, 416 W. Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, an organization the decedent had requested, while on his deathbed, to have charge of his funeral. His contribution to the community, Company F, and country will not be forgotten.



Above is a picture taken on Sunday, June 16, 1907 of the ritual wake observance at Odd Fellows Hall, 416 W. Main St for their departed member Henry Ward Boyer, as he was lying in repose in his flagged draped enclosed coffin, while being attended and honored by a cadre of his fraternity fellows.

### **Captain Richard J. Dawson**

On Monday, May 29, 1899 Memorial Day, at Tomahawk, Wisconsin all of the local members of Wisconsin 4<sup>th</sup> Regimental Volunteers Company F, along with the parents, friends and fiancée, (Marguerite Nash) of the late Captain Dawson gathered at the Mitchell hotel to board their respective carriage's for a somber procession that departed at 6:00 a.m. for the Greenwood Cemetery on Dawson Road. (45.508717, -89.723614). At the gravesite of Captain Richard J. Dawson a brief ceremony was conducted paying tribute, honoring his life and the ultimate sacrifice in service to country. The Company F Honor Guard fired a salute volley of 3 shots. His family strewed the grave with flowers and Bugler Charles Bebean blew "Taps" to conclude the ceremony. The procession returned back to the city in time to catch the 9:10 a.m. south bound train to Merrill. In Merrill an imposing solemn observance in commemoration of "Captain Dick" life had been extensively prepared. It was planned to commence with the Tomahawk train's 10:05 a.m. arrival at the Merrill train station. A crowd of over 250 people was on hand at the depot to greet the train and its passengers. A carriage was provided for Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and Miss Margarette Nash. They were driven to the home of Prudence O'Connor at 1004 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. where the party would be hosted for the day of activities. There was not a cloud in the blue azure sky, which allowed the sun to fully illuminate all the bunting and flags that decorated the community in observance for the holiday. The large Tomahawk contingent, including a brass band, eight Company F members, school children and many friends of Captain Richard J. Dawson were escorted to the west side parade staging area. This immense parade lineup was even more impressive than the one experienced during Company F's homecoming on Friday, March 3, 1899. The parade route was; west on Division, to Cottage, to West Main, east on the trolley car line to the fair grounds. A large crowd had already assembled at the fair grounds before the procession arrived. An inspiring and fitting Memorial Day program comprised of several speakers and musical selections was received by the large appreciative and enthusiastic audience. The singing of "America" concluded the program at the fairgrounds. Then the observance celebrants made the short march to the cemetery, where in advance, through the efforts of the Woman Relief Corp. had already placed a floral decoration of gratitude in adorning every soldier's grave. At the Cenotaph, in memory of the unknown soldiers a beautiful floral pillow with the traced words "Capt. Dick from Co. F" honored their beloved captain. Company F then took charge of the solemn ceremony. Four volleys of three shots each were fired over the various soldier gravesites. The firing of the sunset canon and lowering of the flag and playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" signified the ceremony of "Retreat". The bugle played "Taps", a "soldiers goodnight" marked the conclusion of the Memorial Day observance program.

### **Hans Von Kaltenborn**

Hans V. Kaltenborn was not aboard the train that returned Company F back to Merrill on March 3, 1899. He missed out on that magnificent homecoming celebration for the troops. After mustering out of Company F, Hans remained at Camp Shipp long enough to write one final account of the aftermath of the unoccupied training grounds. From Alabama, he traveled to explore the south and shared his experiences by writing travelogue articles that were sent back home and published in the Merrill Advocate. His articles contained very interesting historic facts and impressions of the various sights that he had visited at Pensacola, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Chicago. He arrived back at Merrill in time to help establish the Merrill Cycle Association. He participated as acting 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of Company F in the grand Merrill Memorial Day tribute honoring his highly respected late Captain, Richard J. Dawson. He became the editor of the Advocate working in that position until the fall of that year, when he left to work in the woods, operating the "Wanigan" for the Langley & Alderson Co. In the spring he came out of the woods and worked for Allan Halsey's building supply store. During this time he also was finalizing his preparations for a European bicycle trip. He departed Merrill Sunday, August 26, 1900 for a lengthy overseas tour. During this European trip Hans sent articles to the Merrill Advocate for publication about his travels in England, France and Germany. Hans had immersed himself in the French culture while working out of Corsica, France as a stereoscope salesman. His father Rudolph Kaltenborn became gravely ill. On March 27, 1902 from Bastia Corse, France, Hans sent a postcard to his friend Mrs. John (Carrie née Baker) Zipp, stating that he had sent a cable to his folks with the message "Home Soon", he also requested Carrie to ask her mother, Mrs. Baker, the Mrs. Alexander (Jane née Balmer) Baker of 207 Center Ave., "to get ready a dish of that famous cream potato salad". The imminent death of his father would hasten his return plans back home to Merrill. Rudolph Kaltenborn died March 25, 1902. He arrived back in America at New York in May of 1902. While there he was offered a job at the Brooklyn Eagle, but after being away over twenty-one months he desired to see his family first and arrived back in Merrill on June 3, 1902. At home Hans had written a lengthy two-part exposé about his experience at Monte Carlo, that was published on Page 1 of the Merrill Advocate July 22 and August 26, 1902 editions. Hans continued to hone and acquire the "News Reporter" prerequisite skills by enrolling at the Wausau Business College and received a diploma for "Stenography" on October 17, 1902. Now feeling a little more prepared and confident, he traveled back

to New York with aspirations for a major newspaper career with the “Sun”, as his 1<sup>st</sup> choice, but to no avail. To his dismay he also discovered the previously offered position at the Brooklyn Eagle was no longer available. Hans persistence would finally pay off when he eventually landed a job at the Eagle as stock table entry clerk on December 1, 1902. After gaining some firsthand insight into the major newspaper operation he knew that he would need to acquire more knowledge and some elite journalist credentials to achieve his ultimate career goals. He left the Eagle after being accepted at Harvard, initially as a special student. He later became a regular student and graduated Cum Laude in 1909. After graduation, John Jacob Astor IV hired him as a tutor for his son Vincent. Hans was aboard the John Jacob Astor IV’s yacht, “Nourmahal” when it became feared lost in a hurricane after it had departed Kingston, Jamaica on Friday, November 5, 1909. Hans married Olga Nordenflycht on September 14, 1910 in Berlin, Germany. Hans returned to Brooklyn and worked again at the Eagle. He was promoted to their Dramatic Editor. On August 6, 1911 after a long and difficult labor by his Wife Olga, Daughter Anais was born. On December 14, 1911 at the New York docks, Hans became the last person with a Merrill, Wisconsin connection to see “Popcorn Dan” alive. On April 15, 1912 Hans lost two friends with the Titanic tragedy, John Jacob Astor IV and Dan Coxon. Son Rolf was born on June 12, 1915. To supplement the income of his newspaper work, Hans was always in high demand and kept very busy as a public speaker and lecturer during his very long active life. Hans was always well informed, well traveled, well prepared, interesting, controversially opinionated and very articulate, which was a natural fit when the newspapers began news programming partnerships with the new and upcoming technology of radio. Radio provided an instantaneous platform for the dissemination of news and information. Transitioning to radio enabled him to reach a vast audience for his talks and lectures. Hans had very distinctive and recognizable voice. His staccato-speech-diction delivery while emphasizing his thoughts, knowledge and wisdom on public affairs became his trademark and soon branded “H.V. Kaltenborn” a household name. He was a very knowledgeable, confident and authoritative radio news-broadcast-pioneer-personality that was associated with many firsts of that industry. On April 4, 1922, 9 P.M. he was first radio broadcaster to do a public affairs and current events program on WVP, the Bedloe Island experimental station. He was the first person to have a regularly scheduled current event topics radio program on WEA, on Tuesday evenings, beginning October 23, 1923. His December 18, 1923 WEA New York broadcast reached his former hometown where he was heard by his old friends of Merrill, Wisconsin. On August 7, 1932 Hans interviewed Hitler at Berchtesgaden. (*The Kehlsteinhaus "Eagle's Nest" wasn't completed until Hitler's 50th birthday in 1939*). On September 11, 1933, after arriving back in New York from an European working vacation with his family, Hans submitted a formal protest letter with the German Government about a Brown-Shirt Nazi Storm Trooper attack on his eighteen-year-old son Rolf, for his apparent failing to salute the Nazi flag, as the family was watching a German parade. He conducted the first live on air presidential candidate interview with Alfred M. Landon during the 1936 election. On September 3, 1936, near Hendaye, France at the France-Spain border frontier, Hans conducted the first live radio battle broadcast, which occurred during the Franco War “Battle of Irun.” His CBS radio audience became the first listeners to hear the sounds of live rifle and machine gunfire, compliments of the Franco and Republican armies, as he was describing the battle, while positioned between the fighting lines, using haystacks as cover. One bullet had just missed his head. He recovered that projectile as a wartime souvenir. In addition to his CBS radio duties, beginning January 11, 1938, he wrote a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday “Kaltenborn Views the News” column for his former employer, “The Brooklyn Daily Eagle.” During the Munich crisis most everyone in the world turned their radio dials to one of the 115 affiliated CBS stations and listened very attentively to the preeminent and unparalleled trusted news source of the day. Hans knowledge of history, experience in having met and interviewed the “Four-Power Accord” world leaders, being fluent in the English, French and German languages made him uniquely qualified to immediately interpret and analyze the overseas news wires and short wave radio broadcasts in real time about the ongoing fears and tensions regarding the events surrounding the brink of war in Europe. Hans reached the pinnacle of his radio fame during that time with his 102 separate broadcasts during the 18-day Munich - Czech crisis of September 10 to September 28, 1938. Some of those broadcasts lasted over 2 hours. It was a very busy time in the late 1930’s for Hans, but he had found time to make a trip back to his hometown of Merrill, Wisconsin, with his wife and daughter for a three day visit, being hosted by the Cliff Livingston family at their Lake Pesobic cottage. During that visit on June 14, 1939 he attended a brown trout dinner at Chilsen’s Shack given by W.B and Joe Chilsen. From the “Shack” there was a special remote WSAU Radio program featuring the famous broadcaster being interviewed by the Wisconsin Valley newspaper editors. After the broadcast, he spoke at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the season Merrill City Band Concert at Stange Park during intermission. A few days later on June 19, 1939 he was given an honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin and gave the baccalaureate commencement address. A week after that, during the first week of July, he was in Hollywood being filmed for his first of many movies, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. Not long after the Munich Crisis, NBC realized their network needed a broadcaster that possessed the knowledge and expertise on world affairs and also had the ability to immediately analyze and articulate extemporaneously

during unfolding events. Contract negotiations began with NBC. He succeeded in obtaining a contract with a "Freedom of Speech" clause, giving him unscrutinized editorial control of his broadcasts. He also obtained and had the backing of a great sponsor, the "Pure Oil Company", a lucrative NBC advertising account. Hans has a long lasting association with them that worked out very well, never regretting for turning down an earlier sponsorship offer from the Ex-lax Company, after speculating the likelihood of the obvious distasteful innuendoes that could arise out of that association. After 13 years, Hans was no longer in front of the CBS microphones. He began his employment with NBC in the beginning of the year 1940, making his first NBC's Red Network broadcast debut on Saturday, April 6, 1940. On June 10, 1940 Hans received an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters from Miami University. At the start of America's involvement in World War II, he became the first visiting correspondent to be permitted by the U.S. Navy to have access in the Pacific War Theater. He reported from Guadalcanal and after departing that island was very happy to have survived a nerve-racking flight after their young frazzled pilot had lost the protective fighter escort and their way in a torrential rainstorm to Bourgainville.

Began his movie career. Recipient of many university honorary degrees Author many books, newspaper columns, magazine articles. Hired by NBC radio 1940, movies, Guest on numerous Radio TV news and entertainment Specials Affiliated with NBC political conventions. reports published world as famous radio news broadcaster and analyst. Died in New York, Ashes buried in Milwaukee Union Cemetery.

July 3, 1947 was proclaimed "Kaltenborn Day" in Merrill, Wisconsin. It was the inaugural day of a 4-day Merrill Centennial Celebration. Hans had returned to his former hometown and participated in the opening day ceremonies, which began at 10:30 A.M. Speaking from the front of City Hall. Hans reminisced about his youth in Merrill, mentioning two structures in his gaze, his childhood home, across the street and the former location of the T.B. Scott library that was established in the City Hall and meant so much to him. A noon luncheon held at the Badger Hotel, Hans conducted a 15-minute special WSAU radio broadcast, beginning at 1:15 P.M. After the broadcast, the Kaltenborn's toured the city with stops at Stange Park, Kitchenette, the future Ott's Park and Mrs. Ceagleske Cottage St. flower garden. After the city tour, Hans and Olga were hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Beyer's, at their Lake Pesobic Cottage. A 6:00 P.M. supper was held in honor of the Kaltenborn's at Hotel Merrill. At 8 P.M., from Grand Stand at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds H.V. Kaltenborn crowned the Miss Sophie Talmont Centennial Queen. After his fairground appearance a police escort rushed the Kaltenborn's to the depot in time to make their train connection to begin their trip back east.. The following evening during H.V. Kaltenborn's July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1947 national network broadcast, he spoke in adulatory mentioned his hometown visit and hometown. The July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1958 would mark Hans 80<sup>th</sup> milestone of life, an birthday celebration at his "Point of View" estate.

Monday July 14, 1965 Hans Von Kaltenborn died.

July 17, 1965 Wisconsin State Legislature Joint Resolution No. 42 was passed honoring the life of Hans Von Kaltenborn.

Hans's cremated remains are buried in the family plot at Union Cemetery, 3175 N. Teutonia Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; located at Section 2, Block 18, Lot 4, Longitude/Latitude decimal 43.078917 -87.93565.

#### Book List:

1930 – We Look At The World – Rae D. Henkle Co. New York

1937 – Kaltenborn Edits The News – Modern Age Books Incorporated – 155 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street, New York

1938 – I Broadcast The Crisis – Random House –

1942 – Kaltenborn Edits The War News – E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York

1945 – Europe Now – Didier, New York

1950 – Fifty Fabulous Years – G.P. Putnam's & Sons, New York

1956 – It Seems Like Yesterday – G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York