

Summary of the Civil War Travels (both known & likely) of

PETER CLARK

**7th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry
Private, Company A**

- September 12, 1861** Enlisted at Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania for 3 Years, by Captain Jennings.
- September 15, 1861** Mustered into service at Camp Cameron, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, by Captain Hastings. Regimental Commander was Colonel George C. Wynkoop (who was also from Pottsville).
- December 19, 1861** Regiment left Harrisburg, PA, for Louisville, Kentucky and wintered on north side of the Ohio River at Camp Crittenden in Jeffersonville, Indiana. The 7th PA Cavalry reported to Major General Don Carlos Buell, as an "Unattached" unit of the Army of the Ohio. Here the Troopers of Company A eventually received Burside Carbines.
- January 28, 1862** Left Jeffersonville, marched to Bardstown, KY, thru Bowling Green and arrived in Nashville on March 18, 1862. Company A was part of the "1st Battalion" (along with Cos D, H, & I) under Negley's 7th Independent Brigade, of the Army of the Ohio, until September, 1862.
- April 1, 1862** 1st Battalion (Co A) marched from Nashville to Columbia, TN, where it operated for most of the summer of 1862 (until September).
- May 13, 1862** On May 13-14 an expedition was made to Rodgersville, Alabama (Lamb's Ferry).
- June 1, 1862** The unit then advanced on Chattanooga, Tennessee, on June 1, 1862, Fighting at Sweeden's Cove on the 4th, and remaining in the Chattanooga area until June 8th.
- July 1, 1862** 1st Battalion occupied Manchester, Tennessee.
- August 19, 1862** Raided Nashville & Louisville Railroad during August 19-23, attacking town of Gallatin on August 21st, with most of US force captured - only 200 or so of the Cavalry escaping south.
- Late September, 1862** 1st Battalion moved to stop CSA General Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, marching under the command of General George H. Thomas, to and from Louisville, KY, (leaving Oct 1) down through Bardstown skirmishing with Confederate Cavalry along the way, continuing to and through Springfield (Lincoln's boyhood home), and toward Danville (Beyond Perryville).
- October 8, 1862** The Battle of Chaplin Hills was fought near (northwest of) the town of Perryville, KY. This day Peter Clark was captured and taken prisoner along with three other troopers of the 7th PA, which also lost two men killed and two wounded "in opening the combat" there. This combat apparently occurred along the Perryville and Lebanon road, within a few miles south of town. Casualties of this battle were about 900 dead, 2900 wounded, and 500 missing for the Union (including two Generals killed) of about 37,000 deployed, and for the Confederates about 500 killed (and left on the field), 2600 wounded, and 250 missing (of 16,000). Peter Clark may have soon been "Paroled" by the Confederates and was sent to Camp Chase (Columbus, OH) to guard Confederate prisoners until he could be exchanged and returned to the 7th in March 1863.
- Nov - Dec, 1862** General Buell was replaced by General W.S. Rosecrans (and a Court of Inquiry called on how
- Jan - Feb, 1863** Buell handled the Kentucky Campaign). The Army was renamed "The Army of the Cumberland".
- Mar - Apr, 1863** Entire Regiment was re-united in Nashville (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Battalions) and re-organized as part of General D.S. Stanley's Cavalry Corp, 1st Brigade, 2nd Division of the AOTC. This group was often referred to as "Minty's Brigade", made up of 7th PA, 4th Michigan, and 4th United States Cavalry Regiments, Colonel Robert H.G. Minty, of Michigan, commanding. While Peter Clark was a prisoner, or awaiting exchange, the 7th was involved in the Major Battle of Stone's River at Murfreesboro, TN, and in many actions around the area, and 2-week expeditions to Franklin, Columbia, and McMinnville, along with skirmishing around Unionville and Rover, TN.
- April, 1863** Muster Rolls show Peter Clark was back with the 7th, but "Sick in Quarters" (at Nashville).
- June 23, 1863** Began the "Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign", which included moving back to the Murfreesboro area (on the right or west side of the Army) charging Guy's Gap at Fosterville, TN, taking 390 prisoners, and continuing down the Shelbyville-Murfreesboro Pike (present Highway 10) into Shelbyville with a Saber charge through the town square, running the Rebels out to the southeast and into the Duck River, and capturing their four Cannons (June 27th).

- July 13, 1863** Expedition to Huntsville, Alabama (13-22)
- August 16, 1863** Began Chickamauga Campaign, going first to Sparta, TN, and skirmishing on Aug 17th (at Calfkiller River), then towards the Chattanooga and Chickamauga area.
- September 19, 1863** Skirmishing east of Chickamauga Creek, held off 7-10,000 advancing Confederates who pushed Minty's Brigade (850 men) from Pea Vine Ridge west to Reed's Bridge, narrowly crossing and tearing up the bridge, holding off the Rebels. Beginning this action the first Union death of the Battle of Chickamauga occurred, John Ward of the 7th PA. (Pea Vine Crk is about one mile west of present 1-75 Exit 350 in Georgia, and Reed's Bridge is 4-miles west). About 1/2 mile west of the bridge is the 7th PA Cavalry's Monument, next to the National Park entrance sign. The Monument was placed and dedicated by Veterans of the 7th PA in November, 1897.
- Oct - Nov 1863** Regiment was sent to Huntsville, Alabama, and occupied the environs of the city.
- November 28, 1863** Mustered out on November 27th, Peter Clark was one of 538 men of the 7th to Re-enlist as "Veteran Volunteers", and as a reward were allowed to return to Pennsylvania for a month of furlough and recruiting in January, 1864. Not known if he travelled to PA or not.
- January, 1864**
- March, 1864** Regiment re-united in Nashville, joined by 1200 fresh recruits. At this time they were outfitted with probably the best firearm of the war, the Spencer Carbine (.52 Cal, Seven-shot repeater).
- April, 1864** At some point during this time Peter Clark was designated as a Brigade Ambulance Driver by Colonel Minty (being relatively "older" & "Veteran"). This was basically a Wagon Driver task which required following closely behind the main body of fighting men to transport dead or wounded soldiers from the field. Often hitched to Mule teams and accompanied by "Darkies". It may be unlikely that he would have carried a Spencer or a Saber, but rather only a sidearm.
- April 19 - 30, 1864** Regiment moved out from Nashville to Join General William Tecumseh Sherman on the Georgia Campaign, going first to Columbia, TN to organize, then on to Chattanooga, TN **area**.
- May 8 - 15, 1864** Fighting on route to Atlanta at Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, and Rome (Tanner's Bridge).
- May 25 - June 5, 1864** Near Atlanta the Regiment fought at Dallas, Villa Rica, New Hope Church, and Allatoona Hills,
- June 9 - 30, 1864** Fought near Big Shanty and around Marietta and the Kenesaw Mountain area
- First Half August, 1864** Dismounted 2nd Div Cavalry occupied the trenches around Northeast Atlanta (towards Decatur)
- August 18 - 22, 1864** Participated in General Kilpatrick's Raid around Atlanta, riding from the southwest part of the city down around and to the east with 5400 men and 8 cannons. Just east of Fairburn (Red Oak Church) the rear of the column was attacked by Confederate artillery. This was the part of the column where the ambulances and supply wagons were. The artillery bombardment caused the ambulances to take a side path, where they got trapped, turning over and breaking three of the six wagons. The drivers abandoned their teams and "bolted for the woods". The expedition made its way into Jonesboro at night and tore up the track and burned the station and other buildings, following which they made their way towards Lovejoy Station (about 9 miles south). At Lovejoy they headed towards the tracks but were met by a large force of Confederate Infantry concealed in the railroad cut and nearby woods and soon found that they were nearly surrounded. Kilpatrick's men regrouped and made a Saber charge to the east along the McDonough road and broke free of the trap. In the Lovejoy action several men were killed or lost (14 of the 7th PA killed, 45 wounded, 29 missing or captured). The raiding party made its way towards Atlanta during a heavy thunderstorm, and lost one Ambulance trying to cross the rain-swollen Cotton River. The only sleep in four days was "in the saddle".
- Sept - Oct, 1864** Disruption of final railway links and supply chain from Macon resulted in the fall of Atlanta, and subsequently Sherman began his March to the sea. However, Confederate commander John Bell Hood decided to go north again towards Nashville and try to distract Sherman. The 7th PA shadowed Hood and skirmished at several places in North Georgia and North Alabama, including New Hope Church, Dallas, Rome, Summerville (GA), and over to Leesburg and Little River (AL).
- Nov - Dec, 1864** Regiment was ordered up to Louisville, KY, to be re-fitted, spending much time and frustration in trying to obtain (confiscate) fresh horses, etc. Several members deserted during this time.

December 28, 1864 Returned to Nashville (staying until January 8th).

Jan - Feb - Mar, 1865 Regiment sent to Gravelly Springs, Alabama. There two months. The 7th became part of the "Military Division of Mississippi" under the command of General James H. Wilson.

March 22, 1865 Began "Wilson's Raid" down through Alabama, resulting in the Attack on Selma on April 2nd, in which several men were killed or mortally wounded in a frontal assault - a week before Lee's surrender and essentially the end of the war. Regiment continued eastward skirmishing at Columbus, GA, and finally arrived in Macon on April 20th. Stayed 4 months.

April 9-14, 1865 Lee Surrenders to Grant at Appomattox (April 9), and Pres. Lincoln Assassinated (April 14)

August 23, 1865 Entire Regiment was mustered out. Peter Clark was in Hospital at this time, as were several other members of the Regiment.

FINAL CASUALTIES: During its nearly Four Years of service the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry had covered nearly 20,000 miles. Lost to death in the service of the Regiment were 102 men killed from fighting or wounds, and 190 men from disease or illness - a total of 292 comrades and brothers-(n-arms of Peter Clark. But he survived...

OTHER INFORMATION: Peter Clark evidently could not read or write and signed with his mark, "X" throughout his life. Description: Blue eyes, Brown hair, Fair complexion; Height 5 ft 8 inches. Years later at Medical Exam for Pension, on May 25, 1892, he was 5 ft 7 inches and 155 lbs.

Age Family Records indicated he was born in 1833, (Ireland) but he evidently wasn't sure himself... "Age 20" Indicated on enlistment documents dated 12 Sep 1861 (would have been 28) "Age 28" Indicated on Re-Enlistment documents dated 28 Nov 1863 (would have been 30) "Age 30" Indicated at Final Muster-Out documents dated Aug 23, 1865 (would have been 32) "Age 70" Indicated on General Affidavit dated August 1st, 1891 (would have been 58) "Age 71" Indicated on General Affidavit dated October 28, 1891 (would have been 58) "Age 71" Indicated on Medical Examination Record Dated May 25, 1892 (would be 59)

Disabilities On May 20th, 1871, Left Leg Fracture near Concord, Massachusetts while unloading stone on railroad construction work when a hoist-derrick swayed and struck him. He was pronounced Lame, with unequal length legs and must have limped for over 20 years. Additionally he had a "vericocele" on his left side (3-1/2" long by 2" wide) - also identified as a "rupture" which is stated occurred about 1883-4. Finally he suffered from a bad back, or "Lumbago" which is stated was caused by slipping and falling on an outside stairway. For these items he was assessed as "totally disabled", but Died within months of having his pension approved / started.

February 19, 1893 Reported death date on Pension Rolls and Death Certificate
Residence: 239-1/2 Burnet St., New Brunswick, New Jersey
Died: Albany St. Buried: Elmwood Cemetery, New Brunswick, NJ

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