

7TH MICHIGAN CAVALRY
MORNING REPORT
Headquarters: Bay City, Michigan

General Grant to Visit City

Lt. General U.S. Grant and his wife Julia will be visiting Bay City next April as part of the General's victory tour of northern cities in celebration of the end of the war.

Since they will be here simultaneous with our annual banquet on April 14th, they have graciously accepted our invitation to attend our dinner and to be our keynote speakers.

They will be accompanied by the General's adjutant and Mrs. Grant's attendant, Robert & Roxy Mulvihill, of Jackson, Michigan.



Veterans of the late unpleasantness will be expected in their military dress to impress upon the General the degree of participation of our patriotic citizens in the recent war.

The Zouaves

They looked like they arrived with the circus and if someone told them they had to dress like that, they probably would have refused.

But, John Gibney, Director of the Monroe County Historical Museum, will tell us at our meeting on Wednesday, January 13th at the Stein Haus why they were really an important part of the North's early war fighting force.

The County's Largest Contingent:

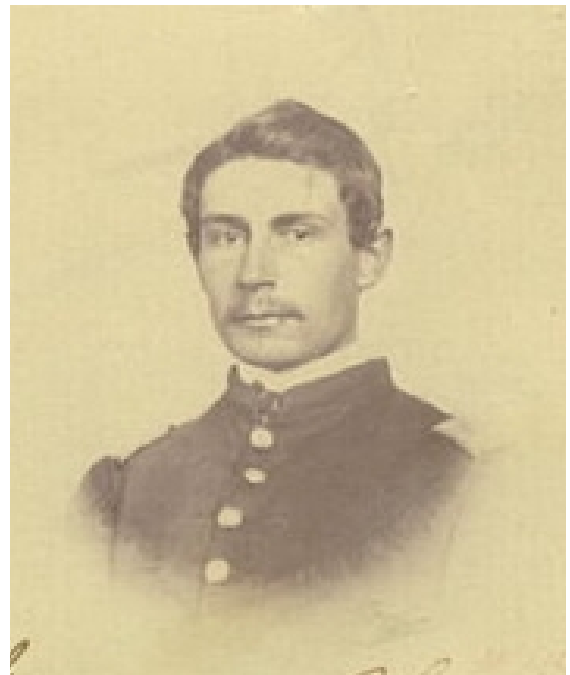
Company F, 23rd Michigan Infantry

Henry Stanley Raymond was named after his father. Henry Raymond the elder came to Lower Saginaw as a businessman in 1849 and always had the title of colonel pinned in front of his name.

Exactly what caused him to have that designation, the county histories do not say. In 1870, the father went off to California "for reasons of health" but, as to the details of that, the chronicles do not say either.

Henry the younger came here in 1851 from Grosse Isle where he was born, and, presumably because of his father's title and his own 6' 2" frame, he was perceived by the populace to have leadership potential in the budding war.

But, Henry did not leave to save the Union with the patriots of 1861. He stayed in Bay County as its draft commissioner registering eligible males.



Captain Henry S. Raymond

In the summer of 1862, President Lincoln called for 300,000 more men and Henry felt urge

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to join the newly forming 23rd Michigan Infantry, which was slated to rendezvous in East Saginaw in September.

He set about organizing Company F of which he would be its captain - that is if he could recruit the necessary 100 men to create it.

Bay County had a population of 3,500 at the time and only 45 men initially joined up. Another 17 men from Bay County eventually joined the regiment and this was the largest group from Bay County to serve in a single unit during the war.

But, Huron County chipped in a large number and the rest filled in from here and there. An incentive for the Huron County men was that the company's 1st lieutenant would be Eben R. Ayers of Port Austin. John Y. McKinney of Portsmouth would be its 2nd lieutenant. [Both would become captains but Ayers resigned in August of 1864. McKinney mustered out with his regiment at the end of the war.]



Lieutenant Eben R. Ayers

The 23rd Michigan's recruits were mustered into service in East Saginaw on September 13, 1862 at the camp they had set up at Hoyt Park on Washington Avenue. Having received their Austrian rifles on September 8th, they drilled and received their other equipment until September 18th when the men marched through the center of

town to the railroad depot located on the north end of the city. Probably a large part of the community turned out to cheer them on and wonder who among them would not return.

The regiment appears not to have stopped in Detroit but passed it by on its way directly to Bowling Green, Kentucky.



Lieutenant John Y. McKinney

Bowling Green is on the railroad line which links Louisville, Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee.

The Union army had captured Nashville seven months earlier and its supplies came by rail from Louisville. However, its hold on the city was tenuous because Confederate irregulars constantly were attempting to cut the railroad both north and south of Bowling Green.

The 23rd's role when encamped there was to guard the railroad.

The regiment stayed there for eight months. While this seems unglamorous duty, it gave the men a chance to learn to be soldiers, something that would serve them well for what lay ahead.

On May 29, 1863, the regiment was sent north in pursuit of Confederate raider John Hunt Morgan. It crossed the Ohio River into Indiana at Louisville and then went east through Cincinnati

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to Chillicothe, Ohio. From there, it went south to Paris, Kentucky, where it engaged a part of Morgan's force.

In the early fall of 1863, the regiment was in southeast Kentucky and in November was in the Battle of Knoxville as part of the 23rd Corps.

In the winter of 1863-64, Henry Raymond had a brush with military justice after he went on leave to Bay County and returned to duty.

On the way back from leave, he was delayed because Confederate guerrillas had blocked the railroad west of Knoxville where his regiment was located.

During the considerable delay, he attached himself to a Union regiment but, upon finally managing to return to his duty station in Knoxville, he was considered overdue from leave and had to stand for court martial.

He was absolved when other officers from his unit vouched for his sense of duty and that he would not have intentionally been absent.

[Henry also apparently suffered from malaria and dysentery during his service and was occasionally hospitalized. These illnesses would be a source of much controversy after he died.]

In the spring of 1864, the regiment was part of Sherman's campaign that moved south from Chattanooga toward Atlanta. After helping capture Atlanta in September, the 23rd Corps was sent in pursuit of the army of Confederate General John Bell Hood as it moved toward Nashville.

Henry Raymond became a lieutenant colonel on August 15, 1864, apparently skipping the rank of major. Eben Ayers, who had become a captain on January 3, 1863 and commanded Co I, resigned on August 16, 1864 due to ill health. John McKinney became a 1st lieutenant on January 26, 1863 and a captain on October 6, 1864, likely replacing Ayers or Raymond as a company commander.

In the late fall of 1864, the regiment was present during the Tennessee battles of Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville.

They were most heavily engaged at the Battle of Franklin on November 30th as part of O.H. Moore's brigade of Thomas Ruger's division.

General Hood decided to make a 20,000 man assault on the Federal forces entrenched on the southern edge of Franklin. The 23rd Michigan was

on the front line of defense about a thousand feet west of the famous Carter house.

[For an excellent description & animated map of the Battle of Franklin showing the position of the 23rd Michigan and the attacks made upon it, see

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/franklin.html?gclid=CJKNv4G6jZ4CFSENDQodngLUow.>]

Five Confederate generals were killed at Franklin, including General States Rights Gist (his actual given name) near the 23rd's brigade and the Federal line held. But, the Union army later that night fell back into Nashville.



Confederate General States Rights Gist

In the battle of Nashville, General Hood's army was completely destroyed and the 23rd Corps was without an enemy left to fight in the whole of Tennessee.

On January 1, 1865, the entire 23rd Corps, 15,000 men strong and with all of its animals and wagons, began transfer by rail from Nashville through Cincinnati to Washington where it boarded ships and landed at the mouth of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina.

The transfer took only six weeks – a testament to the federal transportation system and naval strength of the time. Traveling along the Cape Fear River, the Corps penetrated into the heart of North Carolina – the last bastion of the Confederacy.

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When the war ended, the regiment was at Salisbury, NC, home of a notorious prison camp where 11,700 Union prisoners had died. There, on June 28, 1865, the men of the 23rd Michigan were mustered out of service and sent home.

Their Life after the War

Eben Ayers returned to Huron County after his resignation and is well remembered there as having recruited over a hundred men for service in the Union army. On M-53 near Port Austin is a marker indicating he once lived there.

About 1865, he married Lena Mills of Sandusky, Ohio to which city he moved. He owned a successful wholesale lumber and salt company there until 1885, when his wife died. They had one child, a son, Fred S. Ayers.

He then moved to Saginaw City where he started another lumber and salt company located at South Saginaw and Court Streets. [Saginaw City, on the west side of the Saginaw River was a separate city from East Saginaw, located on the east side of the river.]

In 1896, he married Martha Hay, a very successful and rare woman lumber baron in Saginaw County. They lived in her mansion located at 400 S. Michigan Ave in Saginaw City.

His first name in the Michigan Adjutant General's "Michigan in the War" book and elsewhere consistently is stated as "Eben" but when he arrived in Saginaw, he was always referred to as "Ebenezer", which seems likely to have been his given name.

He died in 1914 & is buried in Sandusky, Ohio.

John McKinney lived in Bay County for the remainder of his life.

He worked as a foreman in a sawmill until 1893, by then having "accumulated quite an estate which included 6 stores, a skating rink, and a fine residence. He then purchased 17 acres of land in Portsmouth Township, adjoining Bay City, and has a fine truck garden, orchard and vineyard. He has 200 grape vines, and an orchard of 400 trees, comprised of peach, pear, plum, cherry and apple." [*History of Bay County,*

Michigan: And Representative Citizens, Edited by Augustus H. Gansser, 1905, pp 608-610.]

He married Harriet Hudson (Hattie) in 1872 and they had three children.

In 1904, they subdivided the 17 acres into the "J. Y. McKinney Addition to Bay City" of 19 lots, which included Hine St south of 39th St, which runs east and west between Michigan Ave & Garfield St.

He died in 1912 and she in 1914. They are buried in Elm Lawn Cemetery.

Henry Raymond came home to Bay City after the war and served as its postmaster until 1870.

He then operated a "news and stationery shop" at various locations including 810 Water St in the 1880s. By 1891, the city directories have his occupation as "insurance" and later also as the secretary of the Michigan Sugar Co. His death certificate also states his occupation as being "insurance".

When the U.S. Grant GAR Post was started in 1882, Henry was elected its first commander.

He lived at various downtown addresses until 1892 when he and his second wife Nellie, who he married in 1880, built a large house located at 1515 Fifth St that stills stands today. They each had two children by their first marriages.

In 1900, they moved to 544 2nd Ave in Detroit (perhaps to live with one of their children) where he died in 1904.

The cause of death as listed on his death certificate was heart failure. His widow claimed his heart failure was caused by the stress of illnesses he had contracted in the military 40 years before and, since his death was service related, she was entitled to a pension.

The Federal Pension Board disagreed and denied her but, undeterred and perhaps with the aid of a local friendly congressman, she convinced the U.S. Congress to pass a special act giving her a \$30 per month pension - \$10 more than Henry himself had been receiving.

Henry Raymond was buried in Detroit's Woodmere Cemetery. His wife moved to Los Angeles shortly after his death and probably no one has visited his grave in a hundred years.

Perhaps a better choice for the second highest ranking officer who enlisted in Bay County to

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spend eternity would have been at Bay County's Pine Ridge Cemetery among his peers.

Henry Raymond's heavy infantry officer's sword can be seen at the Bay County Historical Museum.

Thanks to Alan Flood and Ray Herek, who contributed to this article.