



G. L. Cruikshank

GEORGE L. CRUIKSHANK,

Early settler (1857) in Fort Dodge. Private soldier and first sergeant in
Co. A, Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry. After the civil war
a resident of Humboldt County, Iowa.

FORT DODGE SOLDIERS IN THE EAST.

BY GEORGE L. CRUIKSHANK.

Company A, 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, was organized at Fort Dodge, Iowa, in August, 1861. When the news of the battle of Bull Run was received, a number of young men who had been drilling during the spring and summer resolved to organize a company for the service, and messengers were sent up the Des Moines river as far as Spirit Lake. On the 2d of September the company met at the Court House in Fort Dodge and, before electing its officers, was sworn into the service of the United States by James R. Strow, Justice of the Peace. Franklin A. Stratton was elected captain; G. S. Ringland, first lieutenant; George W. Bassett, second lieutenant. The company went by stage to Cedar Falls and thence by railroad to Dubuque where, on the 21st of September, it was mustered into the United States service by Capt. Washington. It left Dubuque October 6, reaching Washington October 10. One member, Peter Bowers, was lost in a railroad accident near Lewiston, Pennsylvania, where he was buried.

At Washington the company joined the regiment then known as Harlan's Independent Regiment of Light Cavalry. Col. Josiah Harlan was a relative of Senator James Harlan of Iowa, and it was through his influence that Company A joined that regiment. Later, the Secretary of War, finding he had no authority to accept independent regiments, the name was changed to the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Pennsylvania having the largest number of troops in the regiment. On the 16th of October it left camp on 7th street and crossed the Potomac to Ball's Cross Roads, Virginia; in November, marched to Annapolis, Maryland, and thence proceeded to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, by steamer. Here stables were built for the horses and the regiment was thoroughly drilled. While at Camp Hamilton the company

suffered for lack of clothing to such an extent that the men were relieved from regimental duty until they were supplied. On March 8, 1862, when the Merrimac sank the Cumberland and the Congress was burned, the regiment was on picket duty on Newmarket Creek, and on the morning of the 9th saw the beginning of the fight between the Monitor and the Merrimac. The company was under fire for the first time on the old battle ground of Great Bethel, in March, 1862. May 7th, the regiment was reviewed by President Lincoln. On May 15th companies A, E, G, H, and L, were sent to Norfolk, Virginia, and soon after to Suffolk. Company A was detached from the battalion and placed under the immediate orders of Gen. Mansfield. Capt. Stratton was a civil engineer and under the direction of the General made maps of all the routes between Suffolk and the Black Water.

The surveying was done by means of a compass on the pommel of the saddle, and the memoranda of the direction of each course, and the time it took the horse to walk determined the distance. On the return to the camp a map was made of the route. In August the part of the regiment that had been on the Peninsula with McClellan came to Suffolk. December 2d the company was in the mounted charge at Beaver Dam Church in Virginia, where the enemy was routed and a number of prisoners were taken. January 30th, 1863, Company A led the advance in the attack on the Deserted House in which Gen. Pryor was defeated. During the year at Suffolk the command was constantly employed on scouting and outpost duty. In June, 1863, the regiment with other troops was sent by steamer to the White House on the Pamunkey river, and from there to Hanover Court House where a wagon train was captured. At South Anna bridge a mounted charge was made upon an earthwork by companies A and G and the works captured. The object of the raid was to break up the railroad communications north to Richmond. On the expedition Brigadier-General William Henry Fitzhugh Lee was captured.

In July a second expedition under General Getty was made against the Richmond and Manassas railroad. The command returned to Norfolk and on the 9th of August a raid on the Petersburg and Weldon railroad was made. It was hard service and but little was accomplished. In October an expedition went to Matthew's Court House to break up the contraband trade. Soon after, Company A was detached from the regiment and was on provost duty at Norfolk, Virginia.

In February, the company returned to the regiment which was sent to Williamsburg and was on General Wistar's famous expedition to surprise Richmond. They did not get further than Bottom Bridge on the Chickahominy. On the return of the regiment to Williamsburg, Company A was detached and stationed at Gloucester Point, opposite Yorktown.

During the winter General Lee's army was camped on the Rapidan river, and many of his men, especially cavalry, were furloughed for the purpose of recruiting their ranks. At different times during the winter twenty-five of the Gloucester Company were captured. In March, 1864, Gen. Kilpatrick made a raid on Richmond. A part of the command under Colonel Dalghren became separated and while attempting to make their way to our forces at Gloucester Point were ambushed in the night. Col. Dalghren was killed and the command scattered. A sergeant and five men made their way to our camp. A force sent out under Major Wetherill found none of Dalghren's command, but captured one man of the 5th Virginia Cavalry and one from the 9th Virginia Infantry. One of these prisoners had friends in the neighborhood and upon his invitation two men of the company went with him to take supper at his friend's. The host was cordial but was obliged to explain that his larder was empty, and that his family had not flour for their own meal. Prisoner and men were glad to return to camp for supper. During the night an old negro brought in a roasted

chicken for the prisoner. His friend had done what he could.

April 9, 1864, we crossed the York river and marched to Newport News, on the James river, took transports to Portsmouth and were soon at Camp Getty, where the cavalry division under Gen. August V. Kautz was organized. It consisted of the 3d New York, 5th Pennsylvania, 11th Pennsylvania and the First District of Columbia regiments. The last were armed with the Henry repeating rifle, and two guns of the 8th New York Battery were attached to the division. May 5, a beautiful bright spring morning, they moved out of Camp Getty for the last time. Everything in the way of baggage or incumbrance was left behind. The mounted band which was also left was stationed outside the camp, and as the 11th went by was playing "Johnnie Fill Up the Bowl." The march was toward Petersburg, crossing the Black Water river near Wakefield station on the Petersburg and Norfolk railroad. The advance struck the Weldon railroad at Stony Creek station and captured the guard. The next day Jarrett's station with a guard of seventy men was captured. The railroad bridge across the Notoway was burned and companies A and D were sent to destroy a wagon bridge to the left. From there the march was taken to City Point which was in possession of General Butler and his colored troops. On May 11th we crossed the Appomattox at Bermuda Hundred. Raids in which bridges were burned, railroads torn up and much valuable property destroyed were in constant progress, the division sometimes traveling three hundred miles in six days. So constantly were we kept on the move that on the night of June 1, when we reached the lines in front of Petersburg the men took off their clothes to rest for the first time since leaving Camp Getty May 5. The company had had a part in destroying a large amount of railroad track on the Danville, the South Side and the Weldon railroads. Large quantities of government stores were destroyed and the stations at Coalsfield,

Powhatan, Wilson, Weldon, Black and Whites and Jarett's were burned.

At Pittsburg the regiment was dismounted and manned the breastworks, performing infantry duty. On the 9th of June an attack was made on the Jerusalem plank roads. After some artillery fire a charge was made and the lines carried. If General Gilmore had made any attempt to carry out his part by an attack on the east line of the rebel works Petersburg would have been captured. On the 15th of June another attack on the lines of the Norfolk and Petersburg railroad was made. The regiment was under severe fire for some time but failed to carry the works.

On the 21st of June General Kautz's Division again left camp along the breastworks and crossed the Appomattox to Zion's church, where they joined the 3d Division of General Sheridan's Cavalry under General J. H. Wilson in a raid, the object of which was the destruction of the Danville railroad. This road was built in the old style, having wooden rails and flat bar irons spiked on top. The weather was very hot and dry, which made its destruction by fire an easy matter. That the work might be thorough rail fences were piled upon it. For thirty miles not a vestige of railroad remained. The extreme heat of the fire added to that of the sun prostrated a number of the men. After a march in which men and horses suffered severely the command reached the Petersburg and Weldon railroad at Stony Creek station. Here they met a strong rebel force. After sharp skirmishing they marched north to Reams' Station where the rebel infantry with bayonets and our cavalry with sabres came to a hand to hand contest. By outflanking the rebels Gen. Kautz's Division reached our lines at Petersburg that night. The column was led by Col. Stratton, Company A in advance.

General Wilson retreated south and was four days in reaching our lines. After this the 11th Cavalry was on picket duty in Prince George county. They were with

General Hancock in the attack on the Weldon railroad. August 22d, 1864, Company A had one killed and one wounded. The picket duty in Prince George county was hard service. On the 20th of September the members of the original Company A who had not reenlisted were mustered out of the service at General Butler's headquarters on the Appomattox.

On reorganizing the company the officers were taken from the veterans who had reenlisted. The captain was E. P. Ring; first lieutenant, William A. Barber; second lieutenant, Oscar S. Matthews. In October they were with the cavalry in the actions north of the James river. Here Lieut. Barber was wounded and taken prisoner. He died in Richmond. The company was with Gen. Sheridan at Five Forks. In the cavalry charge on the enemy's line Lieut. Matthews was killed. On the memorable 9th of April the 11th Pennsylvania was in the front line. Iowa was represented by the officers in command of the few remaining of grand old Company A.

The regiment was mustered out at Camp Cadwalader, Philadelphia, August 13, 1865. At that time there were but three of the original Iowa company left, Lieut. Lucius L. Carrier, James Lindsay and Oscar S. Slosson.



FRANKLIN A. STRATTON.

Civil engineer. Resident of Ft. Dodge, Iowa, in 1861. Enlisted in the Company (A) which went into the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry. Elected captain, becoming also successively major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel and brevet brigadier general. Died July 17, 1879.

ROSTER OF COMPANY A, 11TH PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY.

NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	RANK	MUSTERED	REMARKS
Franklin A. Stratton ..	29	Fort Dodge.....	Captain	Sept. 21, 1861	Major, Sept. 1, 1862; Lieut. Col., Sept. 19, 1864; Col., May, 1865; was breveted Brig. Gen. when mustered out. Twice wounded.
Geo. S. Ringland.....	27	Fort Dodge.....	1st Lieut.....	Sept. 21, 1861	Capt., Aug. 20, 1862. Mustered out Sept. 27, 1864.
Geo. W. Bassett	34	Fort Dodge.....	2d Lieut.....	Sept. 21, 1861	1st Lieut., Aug. 20, 1862. Wounded at Franklin, Va., Dec. 1862. Resigned Jan. 25, 1863.
John J. Barclay	28	Fort Dodge.....	1st Serg't.....	.....	2d Lieut., Aug. 20, 1862; 1st Lieut., Jan. 25, 1863. Wounded and taken prisoner at Reams' Station, Va., June 29, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 28, 1864. Resigned Sept. 21, 1863.
Fletcher A. Blake.....	26	Spirit Lake.....	2d Serg't.....	Sept. 21, 1861	1st Serg't., Aug. 20, 1862; 2d Lieut., Jan. 25, 1863. Resigned Sept. 21, 1863.
Joseph H. Holloway..	23	Fort Dodge.....	Q. M. Serg't.....	Sept. 21, 1861	Furloughed Nov., 1863. Died at home.
Chas. A. Sherman	31	Fort Dodge.....	2d Serg't.....	Sept. 21, 1861	1st Lieut. and Reg't. Q. M., April 4, 1862. Mustered out April 3, 1865.
G. L. Cruikshank.....	27	Fort Dodge.....	4th Serg't.....	Sept. 21, 1861	Q. M. Serg't., 1862; 1st Serg't., Sept. 21, 1863. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
E. D. G. Morgan	29	Fort Dodge.....	5th Serg't.....	Sept. 21, 1861	2d Lieut., Sept. 21, 1863. Resigned July 7, 1864.
Richard M. Morrell.....	.....	.....	.....	Sept. 21, 1861	Reduced from non-commissioned staff to the ranks June 1, 1862. Deserted June 24, 1862. Was not an Iowa man.
Wm. Carpenter.....	31	Fort Dodge.....	1st Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1862.
Henry Jenkins.....	26	Estherville.....	2d Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Com. Serg't., 1864. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Geo. Smith	26	Fort Dodge.....	3d Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Wounded at South Anna Bridge June 25, 1863. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
A. H. Malcolm.....	29	Jamestown	4th Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Serg't., 1864. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
John N. Minton.....	21	Border Plains	5th Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Taken prisoner Aug., 1864. Died in prison.
Albert D. Hodge	25	Estherville.....	6th Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Wounded at Deseried House, Jan. 30, 1863. Mustered out on account of wound.
Jared Fuller	40	Fort Dodge.....	7th Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Discharged for disability Sept., 1863.

NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	RANK	MUSTERED	REMARKS
John Fitzgerald.....	19	Fort Dodge.....	8th Corporal	Sept. 21, 1861	Q. M. Serg't., 1864. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864. Was a member of the 1st Iowa in three months service.
Chas. D. Mack	29	Cedar Falls.....	Bugler	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Webb Vincent.....	19	Fort Dodge.....	2d Bugler...	Sept. 21, 1861	Q. M. Serg't., 1863. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Alonzo Underwood...	20	Fort Dodge.....	Saddler.....	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out for disability Aug. 21, 1862.
James Hunter.....	42	Waterloo	Farrier	Oct., 1861	Mustered out Oct. 11, 1864.
Geo. G. Smith.....	...	Estherville.....	Farrier	Sept. 21, 1861	Taken prisoner Aug., 1864; was in Andersonville.
Wm. Welch	22	Fort Dodge.....	Wagoner	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Allen Erwin.....	40	Border Plains..	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
W. A. Barbor.....	18	Border Plains..	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Corp., July 7, 1864; 1st Lieut., Oct. 6, 1864. Taken prisoner Darbytown Road Oct. 7, 1864. Died while a prisoner.
James R. Barnes	21	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Killed June 9, 1864 in front of Petersburg.
James A. Beach	21	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Died of wounds received at Deserted House, Va., Jan. 30, 1863.
Geo. W. Binkley.....	18	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Lafayette Binkley...	19	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
John F. Brown.....	21	Waterloo	Private	Sept. 28, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 28, 1864.
Peter Bowers .....	...	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Killed on the R. R. near Lewiston, Pa., Oct. 9, 1861.
Wm. H. Burright.....	20	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Taken prisoner Jan. 29, 1864; was in Andersonville.
Lucius L. Carrier	18	Dubuque	Private	Sept. 28, 1861	Com. Serg't., Oct. 19, 1864; 1st Serg't., Feb. 14, 1865; 2d Lieut., May, 1865; 1st Lieut., Aug. 13, 1865.
Allen B. Carter.....	21	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Starling Chandler	30	Waterloo	Private	Sept. 28, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 28, 1864.
Leander Chase	20	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 21, 1864.
Henry Cooper.....	34	Jamestown	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 21, 1864.
Henry Clark	19	Dubuque	Private	Sept. 23, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 23, 1864.
Geo. H. Crosby.....	20	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Serg't., Jan., 1864. Mustered out Sept. 21, 1864.

NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	RANK	MUSTERED	REMARKS
Daniel Carpenter.....	...	Border Plains	Private	Nov. 2, 1861	Died at Washington, D. C., of typhoid pneumonia following measles, Dec. 24, 1861.
Hiram Evans	22	Jamestown	Private	Sept. 20, 1861	Deserted July 3, 1863.
Seth P. Emery	25	Spirit Lake	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Promoted to Hospital Steward.
W. S. Fitch	21	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
James W. Forbes.....	22	Cedar Falls	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Thos. J. Forbes	26	Dakotah City	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Jacob H. Franz.....	23	Dubuque	Private	Sept. 26, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 26, 1864.
Wm. Frost.....	24	Waterloo	Private	Sept. 28, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 28, 1864.
John Galer	21	Jamestown	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Bugler in 1863. Mustered out Sept. 21, 1864.
Wm. V. Gardner.....	21	Fort Dodge	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Corp. in 1864. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
James Hood	22	Jamestown	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
James Horton.....	20	Fort Dodge	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Corp. in 1863. Discharged Sept., 1863 to take the regiment. Was killed in the Stoneman raid south of Atlanta, Ga. He was chosen to represent Cavalry service on the Soldiers' Monument at Des Moines, Iowa.
S. O. H. Johnson	19	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Committed suicide while insane near Fortress Monroe, Va., June 14, 1862.
Edward Kendall.....	19	Fort Dodge	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Wounded at South Anna Bridge, June, 1863. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Edward Kennedy	22	Fort Dodge	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Jacob Kimball	19	Cedar Falls	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Died of fever, May, 1862, at Camp Hamilton, Va.
J. F. Largent.....	22	Dubuque	Private	Sept. 27, 1861	.....
James Lindsay.....	29	Fort Dodge	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	.....
Oscar S. Matthews.....	20	Spirit Lake	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Serg't., Sept., 1864. 2d Lieut., Oct. 4, 1864. Killed at Five Forks, Va., April 1, 1865.
Jos. A. McKee.....	23	Border Plains	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Thos. Meagher	22	Fort Dodge	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.

NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	RANK	MUSTERED	REMARKS
Andrew Mills.....	29	Jamestown	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Wounded and taken prisoner at Reams' Station, Va., June 29, 1864; was in Andersonville. Died at Wilmington, N. C., March, 1865.
Henry P. Minton.. .	23	Border Plains.. .	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Saddler in 1864. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Jacob M. Moore.....	18	Border Plains.. .	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
George Oleut.....	23	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
John Peterson.....	18	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Henry A. Platt.....	21	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Geo. R. Price.....	20	Dubuque	Private	Sept. 24, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 24, 1864.
Euphronius P. King..	20	Spirit Lake.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Serg't., Aug. 7, 1863; 2d Lieut., July 7, 1864; Capt., Oct. 4, 1864. Resigned June 8, 1865.
Samuel R. Rogers .. .	24	Spirit Lake.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Killed Aug. 24, 1864, near Weldon R. R.
Francis Shaftner .. .	22	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Wm. Sherman.....	18	Jamestown	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Jason B. Simmons .. .	25	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Corp., 1864. Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Oscar Slosson.....	28	Jamestown.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	.....
Ichabod E. Spring .. .	25	Border Plains .. .	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Chas. Tanner.....	25	Spirit Lake.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Daniel H. Taylor.....	28	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Wounded at Deserted House, Va., Jan. 30, 1863. Lost an arm.
Albert H. Townsend.. .	19	Border Plains.. .	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Henry Townsend.....	22	Border Plains .. .	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
James L. Townsend .. .	22	Border Plains .. .	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 20, 1864.
Thomas J. Williams .. .	21	Dubuque	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Mustered out for disability.
Richard W. Wilson	Fort Dodge.....	Private	Sept. 21, 1861	Reenlisted as a veteran. Deserted.

James Moon came to the company from Iowa in 1862.

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