

War, Conflict, or Campaign

In the pages which follow, Iowa's 60 Congressional Medal of Honor winners are listed. The list is broken down according to wars, conflicts, and campaigns in which the nation's military forces have been involved. The information for each individual is given in this order:

Name;

Rank at the time the medal was earned;

Military unit;

Location and date of action which brought the award of the medal;

Iowa residence (can be birthplace, residence, entered service in, served with an Iowa unit, etc.);

Citation accompanying the award; and

Where available, information on the medal winner after completion of hostilities.

Civil War

Bates, Norman F.

Sergeant, Company E, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Malcom.

Citation: Capture of flag and bearer.

The battle flag captured by Bates was one of seven taken in a single engagement near Colum-

bus, Georgia, by the volunteers of this regiment. After his war service, Bates was a farmer and stock raiser in Poweshiek County.

Bebb, Edward J.

Private, Company D, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Henry County.

Citation: Capture of flag.

Birdsall, Horatio L.

Sergeant, Company B, 3rd Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Keokuk.

Citation: Capture of flag and bearer.

Bouquet, Nicholas S.

Private, Company D, 1st Iowa Infantry; Wilson's Creek, Missouri; August 10, 1861; Iowa residence: Burlington.

Citation: Voluntarily left the line of battle and, exposing himself to imminent danger from a heavy fire of the enemy, assisted in capturing a riderless horse at large between the lines, and hitching him to a disabled gun, saved the gun from capture.

Bouquet was only 19 years old when cited for the Medal of Honor, the first Iowan to be so honored. Born in Bavaria, Bouquet's mother had sent him to the United States to live with his brothers and thus escape service in the German army. However, he volunteered for the 1st Iowa Infantry in 1861. Serving a 90-day enlistment, he was

mustered out on August 21, 1861. He re-enlisted in the 25th Iowa in 1862. After the war the 25th Iowa led the grand review in Washington and when it disbanded at Davenport, Sergeant Bouquet, in recognition of his bravery and heroism, was given the colors of his regiment for safe keeping. These colors he kept until his death, even though Iowa Governor A. B. Cummins requested that they be taken to Des Moines for preservation in the state capital. Bouquet returned to Burlington in 1865. At one time he engaged in the grocery trade, served on the Burlington police force, and was sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives at Des Moines. He died December 27, 1912, at 70 years of age, and is buried in Aspen Grove Cemetery.

Bras, Edgar A.

Sergeant, Company K, 8th Iowa Infantry; Spanish Fort, Alabama; April 8, 1865; Iowa residence: Toolesboro.

Citation: Capture of flag.

Cosgriff, Richard H.

Private, Company L, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Wapello.

Citation: Capture of flag in personal encounter with its bearer.

Dunlavy, James

Private, Company D, 3rd Iowa Cavalry; Osage,

Kansas; October 25, 1864; Iowa residence: Davis County.

Citation: At the Battle of Mine Creek, contesting for supremacy at Little Osage Crossing, Dunlavy, single-handed and alone, while suffering from a severe wound in the right arm, captured and secured the surrender of General Marmaduke, C.S.A. officer. He had come on a brigade he assumed his own but which proved to be the enemy dressed in Union uniforms. He noted a Confederate officer exhorting his men to take a stand. Dunlavy shot at the officer but missed because of his injury. However he demanded the officer turn over his revolver and surrender—which he did. Dunlavy then conducted General Marmaduke to the Union lines where he was turned over to General Samuel Ryan Curtis.

After returning to civilian life, Dunlavy entered Keokuk Medical College in 1870. Following his graduation, he spent the next 32 years in the practice of medicine at Stiles in Davis County.

Elson, James M.

Sergeant, Company C, 9th Iowa Infantry; Vicksburg, Mississippi; May 22, 1863; Iowa residence: Shellsburg.

Citation: Carried the colors in advance of his regiment and was shot down while attempting to plant them on the enemy's works.

James Elson returned to Shellsburg, ultimately becoming postmaster, a position he filled for eight years. In 1893 he was elected sheriff of Benton County. He died March 26, 1894, as the result of a rebel bullet he had carried since 1864.

Fanning, Nicholas

Private, Company B, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Selma, Alabama; April 2, 1865; Iowa residence: Independence.

Citation: Capture of silk Confederate States flag and two staff officers.

Godley, Leonidas M.

1st Sergeant, Company E, 22nd Iowa Infantry; Vicksburg, Mississippi; May 22, 1863; Iowa residence: Ashland.

Citation: Led his company in the assault on the enemy's works and gained the parapet, there receiving three very severe wounds. He lay all day in the sun, was taken prisoner, and had his leg amputated without anesthetics.

After losing his left leg at Vicksburg, Godley was discharged on September 4, 1863. He returned to Ashland (Wapello County) and resided there until December of 1874 when he moved to Ottumwa. Godley was elected county clerk in 1874 and reelected to that office seven consecutive terms. He was appointed revenue agent in 1883 and the following year was named a deputy in the same office.

Hays, John H.

Private, Company F, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Mahaska County.

Citation: Capture of flag and bearer, Austin's Battery (C.S.A.).

Healey, George W.

Private, Company E, 5th Iowa Cavalry; New-
man, Georgia; July 29, 1864; Iowa residence: Du-
buque.

Citation: When nearly surrounded by the enemy, cap-
tured a Confederate soldier, and with the aid of a comrade
who joined him later, captured four other Confederate
soldiers, disarmed the five prisoners, and brought them all
into the Union lines.

George Healey clerked in a hardware and feed
store following his return to Dubuque. In 1877 he
established the pioneer hardware firm of George
Washington Healey and Son. He died May 9,
1913. His parents named him George Washington
Healey because of their admiration for the nation's
first president. Paroled from the Andersonville
prison, Healey returned to the regiment in Sep-
tember of 1864. On May 18, 1865, from Atlanta,
he wrote his family in part: "...Jeff. Davis, pres-
ident of the Confederate States of America (or so
called), with family and assistants were taken out
of the wet by the Yankee cavaliers. It was about
the 9th of this month, 75 miles below Macon, by
the 4th Mich. Cav. He and his family were
brought here and sent to Augusta, Ga., escorted
by 100 men of our regiment. I was on the detail;
every time I had the opportunity I would look at
him; he seemed to take it perfectly easy, for one
who was liable to suffer death. His wife is a large
woman, fair skin, good features; judging from her

personal appearance one would take her for a very kind lady; she seemed to be very uneasy. When the train arrived at the station at Augusta, thousands of people were there to look at him for the last time . . . At every station on our way down were large numbers of soldiers and citizens to see if it was true that Jeff. Davis was our prisoner. They would ask us what we were going to do with him. The answer they would get was 'Hang him,' and hang he will, no doubt, although he and his family were treated with respect by us."

Herrington, Pitt B.

Private, Company E, 11th Iowa Infantry; near Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia; June 15, 1864; Iowa residence: Tipton.

Citation: With one companion and under a fierce fire from the enemy at close range, went to the rescue of a wounded comrade who had fallen between the lines and carried him to a place of safety.

Herron, Francis J.

Lieutenant Colonel, 9th Iowa Infantry; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; May 7, 1862; Iowa residence: Dubuque.

Citation: Was foremost in leading his men, rallying them to repeated acts of daring, until himself disabled, when his horse was shot from under him, and taken prisoner.

Herron was exchanged for a Confederate officer and served the Union army brilliantly during the balance of the war. He was mustered out of

service in New Orleans in 1865 as a major general. He remained in New Orleans, practicing law, serving as United States marshal for the District of Louisiana, and as Secretary of State in Louisiana. Later he went to New York where he again turned to law. He died January 8, 1902.

Hill, James

1st Lieutenant, Company I, 21st Iowa Infantry; Champion Hill, Mississippi; May 16, 1863; Iowa residence: Cascade.

Citation: By skillful and brave management captured three of the enemy's pickets.

James Hill was a Baptist minister prior to and after the Civil War. He also had farming interests. After his return, Hill served the Cascade Baptist Church as minister and later transferred to the Worthington Church. He continued to make his home in Cascade however. He was elected chaplain of his regiment by the unanimous vote of privates and officers on August 4, 1863, and became known as the "fighting chaplain."

Kaltenbach, Luther P.

Corporal, Company F, 12th Iowa Infantry; Nashville, Tennessee; December 16, 1864; Iowa residence: Delaware County.

Citation: Capture of flag, supposed to be that of the 5th Mississippi Infantry (C.S.A.).

Kephart, James

Private, Company C, 13th United States Infan-

try; Vicksburg, Mississippi; May 19, 1863; Iowa residence: Webster City.

Citation: Voluntarily and at the risk of his life, under a severe fire of the enemy, aided and assisted to the rear an officer who had been severely wounded and left on the field.

Kephart was a Webster City resident for many years. He was grand commander of Winfield Scott Post No. 66, Department of Iowa, G.A.R. He also was a member of the Webster City Board of Education for many years. He died at Gooding, Idaho, in April of 1932, and is buried there.

May, William

Private, Company H, 32nd Iowa Infantry; Nashville, Tennessee; December 16, 1864; Iowa residence: Franklin County.

Citation: Ran ahead of his regiment over the enemy's works and captured from its bearer the flag of Bonanchad's Confederate Battery.

Mayes, William B.

Private, Company K, 11th Iowa Infantry; near Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia; June 15, 1864; Iowa residence: DeWitt.

Citation: With one companion and under a fierce fire from the enemy at short range, went to the rescue of a wounded comrade who had fallen between the lines, and carried him to a place of safety.

Miller, James P.

Private, Company D, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Selma,

Alabama; April 2, 1865; Iowa residence: Henry County.

Citation: Capture of the standard of the 12th Mississippi Cavalry (C.S.A.).

Morgan, Richard H.

Corporal, Company A, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Hawleyville, Page County.

Citation: Capture of flag inside the enemy's works, contesting for its possession with its bearer.

Following discharge from service, Morgan served for a time as a guard at the Fort Madison penitentiary. He then returned to the New Market area in Page County and farmed. Retiring from farming, Morgan moved to New Market, living there until his death in 1916.

Power, Albert

Private, Company A, 3rd Iowa Cavalry; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; March 7, 1862; Iowa residence: Davis County.

Citation: Under a heavy fire and at a great personal risk went to the aid of a dismounted comrade who was surrounded by the enemy, took him up on his own horse, and carried him to a place of safety.

Sloan, Andrew J.

Private, Company H, 12th Iowa Infantry; Nashville, Tennessee; December 16, 1864; Iowa residence: Colesburg.

Citation: Capture of flag.

Smith, Henry I.

1st Lieutenant, Company B, 7th Iowa Infantry; Black River, N.C.; March 15, 1865; Iowa residence: Shell Rock Falls.

Citation: Voluntarily, and under fire, rescued a comrade from death by drowning.

Swan, Charles A.

Private, Company K, 4th Iowa Cavalry; Selma, Alabama; April 2, 1865; Iowa residence: Mount Pleasant.

Citation: Capture of flag (supposed to be the 11th Mississippi, C.S.A.) and bearer.

Tibbets, Andrew W.

Private, Company I, 3rd Iowa Cavalry; Columbus, Georgia; April 16, 1865; Iowa residence: Appanoose County.

Citation: Capture of flag and bearer, Austin's Battery (C.S.A.).

Twombly, Voltaire P.

Corporal, Company F, 2nd Iowa Infantry; Fort Donelson, Tennessee; February 15, 1862; Iowa residence: Pittsburg.

Citation: Took the colors after three members of the color guard had fallen, and although almost instantly knocked down by a spent ball, immediately arose and bore the colors to the end of the engagement.

After taking part in the famous "march to the sea," Twombly was discharged and went to Burlington where he studied at the Burlington Busi-

ness College. Following his marriage, he became in rapid order: a flour merchant in Ottumwa, in the milling business at Pittsburg, a merchant in Keosauqua, Van Buren County treasurer for four years, and Keosauqua mayor for nine months. He served three terms as treasurer of the State of Iowa, helped organize a bank in Des Moines and served as its president from 1891 to 1908. He died February 25, 1918, and is buried at Pittsburg.

Williamson, James A.

Colonel, 4th Iowa Infantry, Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi; December 29, 1862; Iowa residence: Des Moines.

Citation: Led his regiment against a superior force, strongly entrenched, and held his ground when all support had been withdrawn.

Brigadier General Williamson was one of Iowa's war heroes. He participated in the battles at Pea Ridge, Chickasaw Bayou, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Cherokee Station, Lookout Mountain, Ringgold, Siege of Atlanta, and was with Sherman on the "march to the sea." Before the war he had practiced law in Keokuk County and Des Moines, moving to that city in 1854. Williamson was instrumental in the removal of the State Capital from Iowa City to Des Moines. After the war, he returned to Des Moines where he practiced law, dealt in real estate, and was active politically. Later he became interested in western land and mining which led him to move to New York.