

Medal of Honor Recipients Fighting in Missouri Units – Not Buried in Missouri

AYERS, JOHN G. K. (1837-1913)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company H, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Pekin, Tazwell County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 31 August 1895
- Buried Riverside Cemetery, Three Rivers, MI
- Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



BICKFORD, MATTHEW (1839-1918)

- Rank and organization: Corporal, Company G, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Trivolia, Peoria County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 31 August 1894
- Buried Bayview Cemetery, Bellingham, WA

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



CUNNINGHAM, JAMES S. (1840-1921)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company D, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Bloomington, McLean County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 30 July 1894
- Buried Big Creek Cemetery, Burlington, KS

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



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FOLLETT, JOSEPH L. (1843-1907)

- Rank and organization: Sergeant, Company G, 1st Missouri Light Artillery
- Place and date: At New Madrid, Mo., 3 March 1862; at Stone River, Tenn., 31 December 1862
- Entered service at: St. Louis, Mo.
- Date of issue: 19 September 1890
- Buried Albany Rural Cemetery, NY

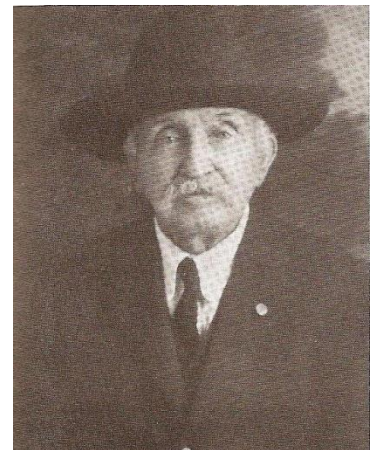
Citation: At New Madrid, Mo., remained on duty though severely wounded. While procuring ammunition from the supply train at Stone River, Tenn., was captured, but made his escape, secured the ammunition, and in less than an hour from the time of his capture had the batteries supplied.



JOHNSTON, DAVID (1838-1931)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company K, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Warsaw County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 16 August 1884
- Buried Pierce Chapel Cemetery, Clarks, NE

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



KIRBY, DENNIS T. (1835-1922)

- Rank and organization: Major, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: St. Louis, Mo.
- Date of issue: 31 January 1894
- Buried Arlington National Cemetery
- Citation: Seized the colors when the color bearer was killed and bore them himself in the assault.

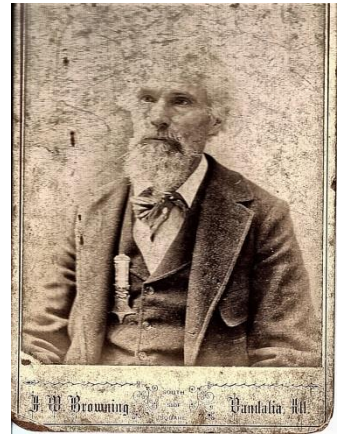


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LABILL (LABILLE), JOSEPH S. (1837-1911)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company C, 6th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Vandalia, Ill.
- Date of issue: 14 August 1894
- Buried South Hill Cemetery, Vandalia, IL

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



LUCAS, GEORGE W. (1845-1921)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company C, 3d Missouri Cavalry
- Place and date: At Benton, Ark., 25 July 1864
- Entered service at: Mt. Sterling, Brown County, Ill.
- Date of issue: December 1864
- Buried Mounds Cemetery, Timewell, Brown County, IL

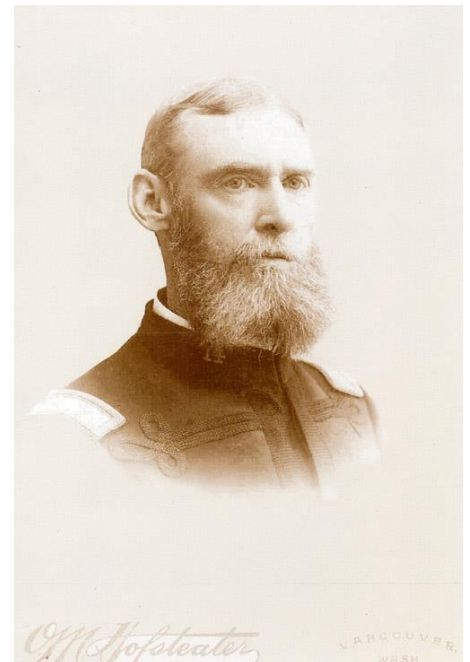
Citation: Pursued and killed Confederate Brig. Gen. George M. Holt, Arkansas Militia, capturing his arms and horse.



McCAMMON, WILLIAM W. (1838-1903)

- Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, Company E, 24th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Corinth, Miss., 3 October 1862
- Entered service at: Montgomery County, Mo.
- Date of issue: 9 July 1896
- Also served in the Spanish-American War
- Buried Fort Vancouver Military Cemetery, Vancouver, WA

Citation: While on duty as provost marshal, voluntarily assumed command of his company, then under fire, and so continued in command until the repulse and retreat of the enemy on the following day, the loss to this company during the battle being very great.



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O'DEA, JOHN (1839-1905)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company D, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Clinton, DeWitt County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 12 July 1894
- Buried Sunset Cemetery, Quincy, IL

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



O'DONNELL, MENOMEN (1830-1911)

- Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, Company A, 11th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863. At Fort DeRussey, La., 14 March 1864
- Entered service at: Illinois
- Date of issue: 11 September 1897
- Buried Mount Calvary Cemetery, Vincennes, IN

Citation: Voluntarily joined the color guard in the assault on the enemy's works when he saw indications of wavering and caused the colors of his regiment to be planted on the parapet. Voluntarily placed himself in the ranks of an assaulting column (being then on staff duty) and rode with it into the enemy's works, being the only mounted officer present, was twice wounded in battle.



PARKS, JAMES W. (1840-1906)

- Rank and organization: Corporal, Company F, 11th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Nashville, Tenn., 16 December 1864
- Entered service at: Xenia, Clay County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 24 February 1865
- Burial location unknown. Died Massac Co, IL near Metropolis possibly in Kingston Chapel Cemetery

Citation: Capture of flag.

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REED, WILLIAM (1839-1918)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company H, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Pekin, Tazwell County, Ill.
- Date of issue: 12 December 1895
- Buried Riverview Cemetery, Huntingdon, PA

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



SCHOFIELD, JOHN M. (1831-1906)



- Rank and organization: Major, 1st Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Wilsons Creek, Mo., 10 August 1861
- Entered service at: St. Louis, Mo.
- Date of issue: 2 July 1892
- Initiated the request for MOH himself
- Buried Arlington National Cemetery

Citation: Was conspicuously gallant in leading a regiment in a successful charge against the enemy.

SIMMONS, WILLIAM T. (1843-1908)

- b. Jan. 29, 1843 d. Dec. 27, 1908
- Rank and organization: Lieutenant, Company C, 11th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Nashville, Tenn., 16 December 1864
- Date of issue: 24 February 1865
- Member of the Kilpatrick Post, No 38, St. Helena, CA
- Buried St. Helena Cemetery, St. Helena CA



Citation: Capture of flag of 34th Alabama Infantry (C.S.A). Being the first to enter the works, he shot and wounded the enemy color bearer.

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STOCKMAN, GEORGE H. (1833-1912)

- Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, Company C, 6th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: Chicago, Ill. Birth. Germany
- Date of issue: 9 July 1894
- Buried West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, PD

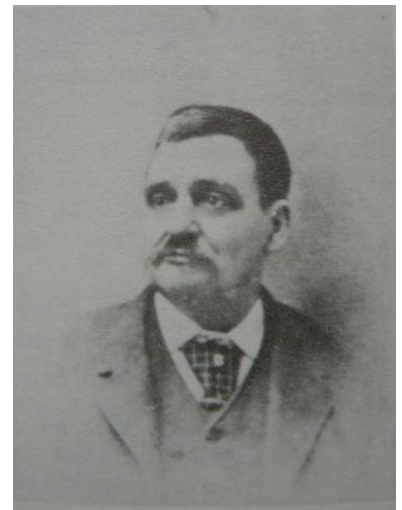
Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



TROGDEN, HOWELL GILLIAM (1840-1910)

- Rank and organization: Private, Company B, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: St. Louis, Mo.
- Date of issue: 3 August 1894
- Buried Calvary Cemetery, Los Angeles, CA

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party." He carried his regiment's flag and tried to borrow a gun to defend it.



WAGNER, JOHN W. (1837-1896)

- Rank and organization: Corporal, Company F, 8th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863
- Entered service at: St. Louis, Mo.
- Date of issue: 14 December 1894
- Buried Forest Hill Cemetery & Crematory, Jamaica Plains, MA

Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."



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WELCH, GEORGE W.

- Rank and organization: Private, Company A, 11th Missouri Infantry
- Place and date: At Nashville, Tenn., 16 December 1864
- Entered service at: Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa
- Date of issue: 24 February 1865
- Burial location unknown

Citation: Captured the flag of the 13th Alabama Infantry (C.S.A.).

Medal of Honor Recipient Controversy

By Walter E. Busch

x

11th Reg't ~~Cav~~ ~~SM~~ Vols. Inf.

Welch or
Welsh, George W. Age. / 8

Rank Corp. Co. A

Captain McMahan

Enlisted Dec. 10, 186. 3

Where Vicksburg, Miss.

Mustered in Dec. 10, 186. 3

Where Vicksburg, Miss.

Tr. fr. 7 Mo Inf. Dec. 14, 1864. (Co F)
Remarks Prom Corp. Jan 26, 1865.

~~Trx~~ Deserted July 19, 1865, Demopolis, Ala.
MR Dec. 64 to February 65, deserted
February 8, 1865.

Mustered out 186.....

Where.....

Form No. 242 1/2, A. G. O., Mo., 6-26-22-6M.

OVER

Believe me, it was not my intention to stir up any controversy when I started doing some research on our Medal of Honor (MOH) Recipients buried in Missouri or serving in Missouri units, but that's what I got. I was merely trying to get photographs of as many of Missouri's MOH soldiers as I could when I came across soldier George W. Welch (Welsh). Welsh served in Co. A, 11th Missouri Infantry and received his Medal of Honor for capturing a rebel flag.

The mystery starts with some basic information in the Medal of Honor records about him. They record him as coming from Brown County, Iowa. Brown County doesn't exist. So far this is the kind of stuff that is inconsequential, but still a royal pain, when doing genealogy. Genealogists routinely come across misspellings and confusion. Brown County, IA, might have been written down, but Brown County, Indiana (IN), been the correct information. However, Welsh's mystery is not that simple as transcription error. Welsh is a Medal of Honor recipient, who according to Missouri records deserted after the big battle and after receiving a promotion to corporal.

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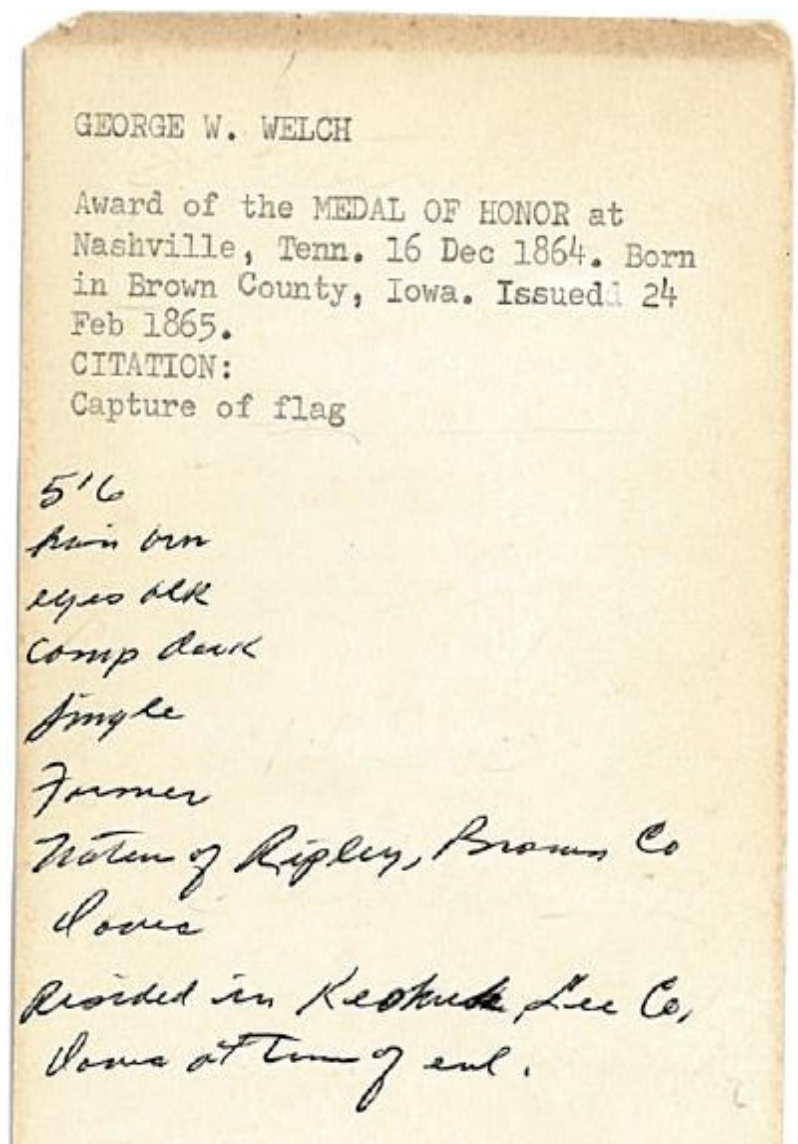
Welsh was 18 years old when he enlisted in Co. F, 7th Missouri Infantry Volunteers at Keokuk, IA on 1 June 1861. Twenty-eight days later, he mustered in at St. Louis, MO. His 7th Mo. Inf. muster card doesn't have any more information other than in December, 1863 he is listed as a veteran volunteer.

On 14 Dec 1864, he was transferred to Co. A, 11th Missouri Infantry. Two days later, during the Battle of Nashville, Welsh captured the flag of "13th Alabama Infantry". That statement becomes an issue in itself, for the 13th Alabama Infantry was with General Lee at the time of the battle of Nashville! There was a 13th Arkansas near where his Missouri unit was fighting (according to some researchers on the web), but the 13th Arkansas apparently had their flag captured by another soldier. Hm-m-m! As troublesome as this may seem, according to researchers, such citations listing what Confederate flag was captured are often mixed up. The point is that he captured a rebel flag.

He quickly was awarded his medal with Congress approving it on 24 February 1865. It is after this time that he disappears. No after war information located so far; no burial site found; no pictures. No George Welsh or Welch! He is a mystery.

So, there seemed to be several issues with George Welsh and I was hoping that maybe the Missouri on-line records through the Secretary of State's Office might clear it up. Often there are comments on these cards regarding deserting, reinstatement, or punishment followed by reinstatement and eventual mustering out. Unfortunately, when I checked the web site I was only able to pull up a copy of a one page muster card (above) showing that he deserted. But all was not lost yet.

There was a notation at the bottom of the card that is seldom seen. The word "over" was there. Usually, when this happens there is a second page to the digitized record. This time there wasn't a page 2. I then contacted the state archives and



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asked them if they could provide me with page two. They did so quickly and is shown on the right. Again, no luck. It doesn't mention anything about his desertion, but gives the reason for his Medal of Honor and also a general description of Welsh. Notice that the citation for the medal states that a flag was captured and does not specify which unit's flag.

So, we have several mysteries with Corporal Welsh. What unit's flag did he capture? Why did he desert? Was he reinstated after deserting, but it not noted on his muster card? Where did he go to after the war? There are two Welshes who are buried in Ripley, IA, but from judging their ages, they would at best be his granddaughters. One thing that might be cleared up, as time permits, by checking the muster rolls of the 11th, but maybe not. Hopefully, in time there will be some evidence to clear this stain on the record of one who was cited for such bravery.

There is a stain on Welsh's record. However, unlike the 19th century, after the experiences of shell shock in World War I, battle fatigue in World War II and post-traumatic stress since Vietnam, his 'desertion' should not be looked upon with disdain until all the facts are known. And even then, on 16 Dec 1864 in one of the hardest fought battles of the Civil War, George W. Welsh, in a moment of bravery, captured a rebel flag.

HONORABLE MENTION

POST, PHILIP SIDNEY (1833-1895)

- Rank and organization: Colonel, 59th Illinois Infantry
- 59th IL Inf originally designated as 9th Missouri Infantry, but renamed as 59th IL in March 1862
- Place and date: At Nashville, Tenn., 15-16 December 1864
- Entered service at: Galesburg, Ill.
- Date of issue: 18 March 1893
- Buried Hope Cemetery, Galesburg, IL
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Citation: Led his brigade in an attack upon a strong position under a terrific fire of grape, canister, and musketry; was struck down by a grapeshot after he had reached the enemy's works.

